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THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is the official organ of the following fourteen Pharmaceutical Societies and Associations in the British Empire:—

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.  
Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland.  
Irish Pharmaceutical Assistants' Association.  
Pharmaceutical Society of Cape Colony.  
South African Pharmaceutical Association.  
Pharmaceutical Society of Natal.  
Pharmaceutical Society of the South African Republic.  
Central Pharmaceutical Association of N.Z.  
Otago Pharmaceutical Association, N.Z.  
Pharmaceutical Society of N.S. Wales.  
Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland.  
Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia.  
Pharmaceutical Society of Tasmania.  
Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia.

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## Circulars and Price-lists.

## HOW TO DISTRIBUTE THEM TO THE DRUG-TRADE.

MANY of the best advertisers in the drug-trade have endorsed our view that it is more effective as well as cheaper to distribute circulars and price-lists stitched up in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST than sending them singly by post. We make such insets in the *C. & D.* notable by the fact that we only receive them twice a year for distribution, and, of course, we ensure that they get into the hands of the right people. Sending them singly by post is more or less (principally "more") a lottery, gives immense office trouble, and costs at least three times more than our charge for inserting them in the *C. & D.* We would advise those who think of the matter to write to our publisher for particulars about the next distribution—the Summer number, July 29, 1899. He will not only give particulars about the charges, but what artistic assistance he can in designing or arranging insets. The date is a month distant, but near enough for prompt instructions to printers.

## Summary.

GOOD ADVERTISING IDEAS for chemists are described on p. 35.

THE CLOVE-CROP in Pemba and Zanzibar has been exceptionally good this year (p. 38).

A SEYCHELLES CORRESPONDENT predicts that the vanilla-crop will be poor this year (p. 32).

GOOD HINTS on the dispensing of ol. cadini and liq. plumbi together are given on p. 26.

THE DEATH of Mr. W. R. Dodd, Secretary of the South London School of Pharmacy, is reported (p. 15).

OLD-FASHIONED English patent medicines are imitated in New York down to the medicine-stamp (p. 9).

FOR SELLING VERMIN-KILLER without poison in it a man has been sentenced to six months' hard labour (p. 3).

TRANSVAAL DRINKS are curiously compounded on the spot. Some of the formulas used are printed on p. 8.

EUCALYPTUS CIGARETTES are not a good subject for criminal prosecutions according to the Judge at Exeter (p. 3).

AN INGENIOUS ARRANGEMENT by Mr. E. Dowdard for automatically determining melting-points is described on p. 33.

MR. DAVID HOOPER, the quinologist, has had a conversation with a *C. & D.* representative, which is reported on p. 33.

BISMUTH SALICYLATE is rather a troublesome salt for dispensers to work with, so Mr. Geo. Roe gives hints about it on p. 22.

MR. JAMES REID (Dumfries) deals vigorously with some questions of pharmaceutical interest which are being vaguely considered at present (p. 25).

SEVERAL FIRMS interested in the homœopathic trade contribute to the discussion on the prices charged which was opened in this journal (p. 24).

"A MAJOR MAN they made me . . . but, alas! . . . my trade seems but the vending of 'air ile'" is the plaint of the poetic Octavius Pilliant (p. 35).

MR. A. C. WOOTTON, the Editor of this journal for many years, is retiring, with the regret and esteem of the proprietors and of all his colleagues (p. 21).

LIME-WATER, milk of sulphur, and almond oil are the drugs which have brought chemists into court under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act this week (p. 13).

MR. PETER BOA has been elected Chairman of the Executive of the North British Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society, in succession to Mr. J. L. Ewing (p. 11).

JAVA CINCHONA-PLANTERS and bankers have agreed to establish bark-sales in Batavia, where all the cinchona and part of the quinine for export will be sold by auction (p. 18).

THE MARKETS are quiet this week owing to stocktaking Citric and tartaric acids and cream of tartar are the centre of interest and firmer. Ipecac. is dull and 6d. cheaper Sicilian oils are firmer (p. 29).

AN OLD MANOR-HOUSE and a large estate have been purchased by Mr. Wellcome, of Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., and converted into a club-house and recreation-grounds for the use of the employes of his firm (p. 36).

THE HOME SECRETARY, in reply to Sir John Long, has stated that the Privy Council are prepared to consider whether carbolic acid can be advantageously dealt with. A resolution from the Pharmaceutical Society to add it to the schedule of poisons is practically invited (p. 12).

THE PHARMACY BOARD of NEW SOUTH WALES has refused to recognise the British certificates as evidences of qualification. This course has been professedly taken by the Board in consequence of the refusal of the British Society to recognise the N.S.W. certificates (p. 18).



## English News.

### Summer Trips.

The employes of Messrs. C. R. Harker, Staggs & Morgan went to Southend-on-Sea on Saturday, June 24, for their seventh annual outing. Mr. S. R. Collis occupied the chair at the dinner, and in a few appropriate words proposed the "Prosperity of the Firm." He had to refer to the absence of a few of the old faces through death and illness. Mr. Rowland Staggs, jun., responded. The afternoon and evening were spent in excursions on sea and land. A late train brought the party back to London.

Upwards of fifty of the senior members of the staff of Messrs. C. J. Hewlett & Son proceeded last Saturday, June 24, by train to Portsmouth. During the morning the dockyard and training-ships were visited, and at midday a substantial dinner was provided at the Hyde Park Hotel, Southsea. The chair was taken by Mr. E. J. Millard, F.C.S. After the usual loyal toasts had been honoured, Mr. T. B. Fickling, senior town representative, proposed "The Firm," and referred to the large increase of business that had taken place during the last few years. The Chairman, in responding, mentioned that the relations between employers and employed had always been most cordial, and that a number of those present had been connected with the firm for upwards of twenty years. In the afternoon the majority proceeded to Cowes by steamboat; and London was reached at a late hour.

The annual excursion of the employes of Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney (Limited), Southwark Street, S.E., took place on June 24, the rendezvous being Brighton. A party of about one hundred left London early in the morning, and after spending an enjoyable forenoon met for lunch at Mellison's Concert Hall. The chair was occupied by Mr. H. Cassin Wright, and the other partners present were Messrs. John C. Umney, Ernest B. Layman, Frederick N. Layman and Ernest A. Umney. The Royal toast was proposed from the chair, and "Success to the Firm" was subsequently given by Mr. Horace Bacon, the firm's cashier and secretary of the recently-formed company. This was replied to by Mr. John C. Umney, who referred to the absence of their seniors, Mr. Charles Umney and Mr. Charles Noel Layman, and thanked the employes for the very cordial support they had given them during the past year. He spoke of the considerable extension of their operations and the opening of their new laboratories, drug-mills, and general manufacturing-premises in Park Street, and said although it necessitated a division of the staff, still he was glad to find that they stuck well together socially. He concluded by referring briefly to the formation, for family reasons, of the business into a limited company. On the proposition of Mr. Horace Bacon it was agreed that a letter be sent to Mr. Charles Umney, expressing the pleasure they felt at hearing of his recovery from illness and hoping that he would soon be with them again.

### University College "Conversazione."

The biennial *conversazione* of University College, London, took place on June 29. Visitors were received by Lord Reay, the President. Scientific demonstrations were given during the evening by members of the professorial staff, and proved in the highest degree interesting. In the chemical department Professor W. Ramsay and Dr. M. W. Travers showed the spectra of the various gases of the atmosphere, including those of argon, krypton, neon, xenon, and helium.

### Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association.

A meeting of the committee was held in the Exchange Rooms, Birmingham, on Wednesday, June 21, when the following officers were elected for the coming session:—President, Mr. W. F. Cox; Vice-Presidents, Mr. F. A. Spear and Mr. F. Foster; Treasurer, Mr. A. Billington; Secretaries, Mr. W. Holland (financial), Mr. A. H. Ball (literary).

### Got to be Liberals.

The *Western Mercury* says:—"Representatives at the forthcoming Conference of the Pharmaceutical Society at Plymouth will be elected honorary members of the Liberal

Club during their stay in the town." The political qualification, we presume, will be suspended for the occasion.

### Drug-contracts.

The following Workhouse contracts have been ratified:—

Belper.—Mr. C. W. Southern for druggists' sundries.  
Canoeck.—Mr. T. Garland for brimstone at 1½d. per lb. and linseed-meal at 2d. per lb. Mr. Fereday, Bridgton, for saltpetre at 3½d. per lb. No tenders were received for Calvert's soap.

Cauterbury.—Mr. A. J. Baker for Sanitas soap.  
East Preston (Sussex).—Messrs. G. T. Cox & Son, East-cheam, E.C., for carbolic soap at 16s. 8d. per cwt., arrowroot at 6d. per lb., and night-lights at 4s. per dozen boxes.

West Bromwich.—Messrs. Southall Brothers & Barclay (Limited), Birmingham, for drugs.

### The Errant Errand-boy.

At Bristol Police Court on June 20, Albert Mullings (13), was charged with stealing 5s. the money of his employer, Mr. J. T. Good, chemist, Oheltenham Road, with whom he was employed as an errand-boy. Prisoner, who went out for change of a 5s. piece but did not return, was sent to a reformatory.

### Embezzling from a Chemist.

At Grantham Police Court on June 19, John Henry Meusson was charged on remand with embezzling various sums, amounting to 1l. 15s. 4d., from his late employer, Mr. J. Fillingham, chemist and aerated-water manufacturer, Westgate. Prisoner was employed by Mr. Fillingham to take orders and collect accounts for mineral waters, and evidence was given that various accounts which had been paid to prisoner had only been partially credited. Prisoner was allowed 5s. a day personal expenses, but was not allowed anything for treating customers as Mr. Fillingham did not believe in the system. For the defence it was urged that prisoner was only paid a small wage, and being in reality a traveller, he was bound to spend liberally to obtain custom. Prisoner was fined 10l., or one month's imprisonment. It was intimated that prisoner's friends had refunded 10l. to the prosecutor.

### Alleged Fraud.

At Southampton Police Court on June 21, William Chapman was charged with obtaining 5s. by means of false pretences from Messrs. Raudall & Son, chemists, Southampton. Joseph Galt, an assistant with the prosecutors, stated that on the evening of June 12 prisoner came to the shop and said that he wanted to give an order to refit the medicine-chest of a vessel named the *North Angler*. The vessel, he said, was lying in the docks and belonged to a Newcastle firm. Prisoner then began talking of his private affairs, and eventually asked for the loan of 5s. Believing that what prisoner had said was true witness advanced him the money, and on the following day he discovered that no such vessel as the *North Angler* was lying there. Prisoner was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions on this and three other charges.

### Caution to Wholesale Druggists.

Messrs. Hearon, Squire & Francis have been robbed of drugs to the value of nearly 50s. by a trick, which they ask us to expose for the benefit of other firms. On May 11 last a person came to their warehouse in Southwark Street and asked for quotations for quinine and Hotchkiss's oil of peppermint, saying the information was for Mr. Tasker, pharmaceutical chemist, Upper Street, Islington. On June 10 the same person returned, bringing a written order for "25 oz. of quinine and 1 lb. menth. pip. Hotchkiss," the name of Tasker being very badly stamped on the paper above the order by means of an indiarubber stamp. The goods were supplied without suspicion, but when the statement was sent to Mr. Tasker a few days ago that gentleman—who, it may be stated, was not a previous customer of Messrs. Hearon, Squire & Francis—promptly repudiated all knowledge of the transaction. The person who obtained the goods is described to us as apparently about 30 years of age, 5 feet 7 or 8 inches in height, dark, with a heavy moustache, fairly well dressed, with a bowler hat and morning coat, and rather smart-looking.



### Bronchial Cigarettes.

At Essex Assize on Friday, Joseph Butt, *alias* Lee, was indicted for obtaining money with intent to defraud. The case was tried at the last assize (*C. & D.*, February 18, page 276), but the jury disagreed, and the case was held over. The allegations were that prisoner sold cigarettes which he wished people to believe contained tobacco, but which were composed entirely of stramonium. These he called "Eucalyptus cigarettes," and represented them as "an invaluable remedy for bronchial troubles." Evidence was given that accused got persons to take the agency for his cigarettes on condition that he would advertise them, and would supply a penny-in-the-slot machine, conditions which were not fulfilled. Mr. Pooley, B.Sc., county analyst, deposed that the cigarettes were made of crushed stramonium, 1 lb. of which, costing 1s., would make over 600 cigarettes. Cross-examined, he admitted that stramonium was a recognised remedy for asthma, and chemists sold it in the form of cigarettes at about the same price as charged by the prisoner. Prisoner was found guilty, but as he had been in prison for some time awaiting trial he was sentenced to one day's imprisonment only, the Judge expressing a wish that no subsequent prosecutions in connection with the sale of the cigarettes should follow.

### Had Left the Poison Out.

At Hampshire Quarter Sessions last week a man named Sampson Hughes was indicted for obtaining money by false pretences. Prisoner represented that he had a preparation which would effectually exterminate rats and vermin, and on this representation many purchases were made from him, one person buying a sovereign's worth. The preparation was found to be perfectly useless for destroying vermin; and Mr. Arthur Angell, public analyst, stated that the preparation contained no poison. Prisoner admitted this, but explained that it was left out through a mistake; and as it was further stated that he had received about 20*l.* in Bournemouth and district by selling the preparation, prisoner was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

### Chemist's Horse Bolts.

A horse belonging to Mr. J. Smith, chemist, Blackburn, bolted in Exchange Street, Preston, on June 19, and was only brought to a full stop by dashing into a grocer's window. Several people narrowly escaped injury, and the horse was badly cut.

### No Prosecution this Time.

At a meeting of the Luton Town Council on June 20, the Sanitary Committee reported that upon the certificate of the Public Analyst (Mr. A. E. Ekins) stating that a sample of lime-water purchased was deficient in strength to the extent of 39 per cent., and after hearing the explanations of the Medical Officer and Inspector thereon, it was resolved that the Town Clerk write to the person from whom the sample was obtained, inform him of the result of the analysis, warn him as to the supply of adulterated articles in future, and state that it was not intended to proceed for the recovery of the penalties in this instance, but that he must pay 10s. 6*d.*, the analyst's fee. Councillor Wright asked what the lime-water was used for. If it was for medical purposes he could not imagine a very much worse case. Alderman Webdale said the impression he gathered from the Medical Officer was that it was not of much consequence.

### A Chemist's Assistant's Death.

The inquest touching the death of Sidney Richard Page, chemist's assistant, of Aberavon, who was supposed (see *C. & D.*, June 24, page 985) to have died from an overdose of chloroform, was held at Maesteg on June 22. Dr. J. Davies, J.P., and Dr. Rees Roberts had made a *post-mortem* examination, and Dr. Davies now stated that he found all the organs of the body in a healthy state. Death was due to hæmorrhage on the brain or apoplexy. Dr. Davies further stated that there was no foundation whatever for the reports circulated that the young man had taken poison. This was a cruel and baseless assertion. Death from natural causes was the verdict.

### The Assistant-dispenser.

An inquest was held at Leeds on June 23 concerning the death of a page-boy (aged 17 years) lately in the employment of Dr. Musgrave. Deceased was found dead in bed with a bottle by his side which had contained about 2 oz. of chloroform, and a piece of cotton-wool covered his face. It was conjectured that deceased, who suffered from neuralgia and toothache, had used the chloroform for the purpose of alleviating the pain, and had inadvertently assimilated an overdose, become unconscious, and leaving the cotton-wool on his face had been suffocated mechanically. The mother deposed that her son was engaged by Dr. Musgrave, first as surgery-boy, and afterwards he assisted in making up the medicines. Dr. Frederick Bernard Musgrave said deceased was employed at his surgery as his manservant, and assisted in dispensing. He was not aware that he had at any time taken chloroform to relieve himself from toothache, but he had access to the things in the surgery. He had recommended other remedies, but had never prescribed chloroform for him. His groom told him the boy was looking rather dazed a week or two before, and on his asking if it was toothache, he replied, "No; I have taken chloroform." In his opinion death was due to mechanical suffocation. Dr. Hopkins gave similar medical evidence, and the jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure.

### The Chemist Reprimanded.

An inquest was held at Liverpool on June 23 into the circumstances attending the death of a tailor and draper named William Morgan, who poisoned himself with prussic acid. Mr. John Smith, assistant to Messrs. J. H. & S. Johnson, chemists and druggists, Whitechapel, Liverpool, deposed that he had known the deceased gentleman as a customer for fully ten years. On June 21 Mr. Morgan called at the shop and asked him what would be the best poison for an old dog. Witness told him there were several things which would answer the purpose, but suggested he should consult Mr. Lee, the principal. Mr. Morgan then repeated his request in the presence of Mr. Lee and witness, with the result that he was supplied with 2 dr. of prussic acid, the bottle containing which was labelled "Poison." There was nothing in his appearance to create suspicion. The prussic acid was given to him, not sold, and, as it was not a sale, no entry was made in the poisons-book. Dr. Hayward having testified that death resulted from taking prussic acid, the Coroner pointed out how necessary it was that every precaution should be taken by chemists in supplying customers with poisons of that character, and said he was extremely surprised that on the mere pretext of wanting to kill an old dog the poison was supplied to Mr. Morgan. The jury found a verdict of suicide whilst temporarily insane, and suggested that the chemist should be reprimanded. The Coroner said he quite agreed with them. Chemists could not be too strict in supplying poisons, and it was no palliation of the offence to say that it was a mere gift, and that the Act of Parliament consequently did not apply.

### The Chambers Collapsed.

The only two vitriol-chambers which escaped destruction at Hardshaw Brook Chemical-works, St. Helens, by the recent disastrous explosion, collapsed suddenly on June 23. There were only two out of the ten chambers left standing, and, as they were not considered quite safe, it was decided to pull them down. The work was begun on June 19 and continued until two days afterwards, when the work was expedited by the weight of the lead casings inside the chambers causing the outer woodwork and the wooden supports to give way. Fortunately, none of the workmen were seriously injured.

### A Poisonous Ointment.

At West London Police Court on June 26, Frances Wildes was charged with attempting to commit suicide by swallowing a quantity of poison. Prisoner was found unconscious, and a doctor who attended gave her an emetic, and ordered her removal to St. Thomas's Hospital. When she recovered she said she had swallowed 2 oz. of poison out of a jar of ointment. The jar, which was labelled "Poison," was handed to the Magistrate, who said she must have been tired of her life if she took that stuff. The prisoner was remanded.



### Will go on until the Millennium.

On June 23 Mr. A. Braxton Hicks held an inquiry at Wimbledon concerning the death of Charles Elmes (46), who died on June 19. The widow stated that deceased had been ill for a very long time, but he did not believe in doctors. She did not know what was the matter with him. A few days before his death he went to Guy's Hospital, where the doctors told him to come again, but he died on Monday morning. On June 18 her husband, who had got much worse, purchased two bottles of medicine from a chemist at Thornton Heath.

The Coroner: The bottle is labelled "Bronchitis and Asthma Mixture," but the man died of phthisis.

Mr. Frank Henry Davies said he was a dispensing chemist, carrying on business at Thornton Heath.

The Coroner: You say you are a dispensing, not a prescribing, chemist? Witness: I do not prescribe.

But you do; you sold the deceased this mixture.—He came into my shop and asked for a bottle of bronchitis-mixture.

Had you any means of testing whether he had bronchitis?—I did not go into it. He said he had bronchitis.

The Coroner: The mischief of this kind of thing is that it makes people feel secure. Supposing he had thought that prussic acid would have done him good?—I should not have given it him, as it is a dangerous thing.

If this mixture is good for bronchitis, would it be good for phthisis?—I think not.

The Coroner: I really think if chemists do not diagnose diseases they should refrain from giving medicine. If you do not diagnose you should not treat a man.

Witness: I do not.

But you do. You gave him the medicine.—It was put up on the counter, and he asked for it.

The Coroner: Yes, I know the system, but I cannot say I approve of it. I want to see whether I cannot do something to stop the sale of proprietary medicines.

Witness: It would be a very good thing.

The Coroner: Yes; very few doctors dispense their medicines now. I do not say you did anything illegal, but I think it is injudicious. People take this mixture instead of going to the proper person—the doctor. What would be said if I, as a barrister, prescribed for a man?

Witness: I would have given the deceased a bottle of diarrhoea mixture if he had asked for it.

The Coroner: Yes; I see I cannot persuade you. There is nothing illegal in it, but it is a common practice, and I wish to show that it is apt to mislead people. I cannot blame you for his not seeing a doctor. I can only suggest to chemists that they should not do this, but I am afraid it will go on until the millennium.

The medical evidence showed that the deceased died from phthisis, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

### Fires.

The residence of Mr. A. P. Balkwell, chemist and druggist, Plymouth, which is situated at Postbridge, was burnt to the ground on June 25 owing to some sparks igniting the thatched roof. Only a small portion of the furniture was saved. The loss is covered by insurance.

The disastrous fire which occurred at the warehouse of Mr. H. Martin, chemist, Lincoln, a fortnight ago, has been found to have been caused by an errand-boy, who threw a lighted match into a rubbish-heap in the warehouse. This ignited some of the refuse, and the flames spread to the oil-shelf above. Beyond the amount covered by insurance, Mr. Martin estimates his loss at between 60% and 70%.

### Cricket.

Played on June 17. Stevenson & Howell v. Kepler. S. & H. scored 29; Kepler, 56.

Davy Hill's C.C. v. Willow's C.C. Played at Walthamstow on June 24. B.H.C.C. scored 70, and Willows C.C. 45. For the winners T. Sibley made 31 and took six wickets for 18 runs. Atkinson batted well for the losers.

Played on June 24 at Brockley. Burgoyne's C.C. (96) v. Stevenson & Howell's O.C. (82). Humble (30) was top scorer for Burgoyne's, and Croxford (16) for Stevenson & Howell's.

### The Chemist Conscientiously Objects.

At the Oakmere Petty Sessions last week Mr. Alfred Valentine Aston, pharmaceutical chemist, Tarporley, applied for a certificate exempting his child from vaccination. The applicant said he objected to vaccination because he believed it was very liable to cause injury to children in after-life, and he did not wish to expose his child to the risk. He thought it no safeguard against smallpox, and he considered the chances of the child meeting with smallpox were much more remote than the chances of injury by the operation. The Chairman said the applicant would be responsible if the child died from smallpox, and another Magistrate cautioned him that there was very grave risk. The application was granted.

### "Dr. Barnato, of Russia"

At an inquest held at Whitechapel on June 28 on the body of a child, aged 11 months, evidence was given that the child was suffering from measles, and Dr. Snowman prescribed. Then the mother sent for "Dr. Barnato, of Russia," who also prescribed. Subsequently the child died. Benjamin Barnato, Commercial Road, E., stated that he possessed no diploma qualifying him to practise in England as a medical man. He produced a number of documents which the Coroner remarked, appeared to be passports. One bore the name "Barney," and others "Barnato." Witness claimed that one of the documents entitled him to practise as a doctor in Russia.

The Coroner: You have no diploma entitling you to practise here, and if you do so it is at your own risk. If you make a mistake you are liable to be prosecuted.

Witness stated that he prescribed the bottle of medicine produced. It contained "ferro-phosphate" and "potass chloride."

The Coroner: What do you mean by describing this as "Professor Barnato's great Russian Vegetable Discovery"? They are minerals, both of them.—Oh, I write on the bottles. I got the M.D. degree from Ukah College, New York.

Dr. Jacob Snowman stated that the cause of death was asphyxia, due to broncho-pneumonia supervening on measles. The medicine prescribed by Barnato had certainly not caused the child's death, but it was not suitable to the case. The Coroner's officer stated that Barnato had a sign outside his house, "Dr. Barnato, of Russia."

The jury, in returning a verdict of natural death, requested the Coroner to draw the attention of the Medical Defence Union to the facts of the case.

### Optional with the Doctors.

At Walsall, on June 27, a Coroner's inquiry was held respecting the death of a child aged 1 year and 10 months. On June 24 the children were left in charge of a nurse, who placed the deceased in a chair in the kitchen, and about midday he was observed to be drowsy, and could not be roused. Another servant noticed that a bottle which had contained an ear-lotion, and had been placed on a shelf near to where deceased had been sitting, was empty and uncorked, and as deceased by climbing from his chair on to the dresser could have reached it, she surmised that he had done so and swallowed the contents. The child was at once taken to Dr. Sydenham, who found him nearly comatose. He administered an emetic, and after making inquiries treated him for morphine-poisoning, but death ensued that same evening. It was explained that the ear-lotion had been supplied by a doctor at Bilston, and contained 2 gr. of morphia. The bottle had not been labelled "Poison." Dr. Sydenham pointed out that this would have been necessary in the case of sale by a chemist; it was optional with the medical profession. The jury, in returning a verdict of accidentally poisoned, strongly recommended that it should be compulsory for doctors to label as poison all bottles which contain poison.

### Prussic-acid Poisoning.

At Preston, on June 21, an inquest was held into the circumstances of the death of Mark Hargreaves, chemist and druggist, late of Fylde Road, Preston. Evidence was given that deceased had been long troubled with pains in the head, which he attributed to an attack of sunstroke twenty



years ago. Two days before his death he complained of a recurrence of the pains, and he asked his assistant to forward a telegram to his nephew desiring him, in turn, to wire his brother to come to Preston to look after his shop for a time. An answer was received that he was too ill to come, and shortly afterwards deceased was found in the kitchen apparently in a fit. Two doctors were called in, but deceased was dead. A bottle containing a small quantity of hydrocyanic acid, and a 2-oz. measure, in which were left a few drops of the acid, were found by his side. A warehouseman gave evidence that he saw deceased pour something out of a bottle into a glass and drink it, and a verdict of suicide while insane was returned.

#### The Atropine-pudding Case.

At the Herts Assizes on June 28, Leonora Robinson, a domestic servant, was charged with having administered poison (atropine) to her master and mistress, and their four children. Evidence for the prosecution was given showing that after partaking of a rice pudding made by accused, the family all suffered from atropine poisoning. It was thought that accused had put into the pudding a quantity of atropine eye-lotion, at that time being used by her master. The prosecuting solicitor said the Treasury had searched in vain for a motive in the case. The accused went into the witness-box and admitted that she placed the atropine in the pudding, but had done so by mistake. She denied that she was on bad terms with any of the family. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and accused was discharged.

## Irish News.

*Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.*

#### Analyst Appointed.

The Londonderry Board of Guardians met on Friday to consider the appointment of an analyst of drugs to the Union. It was proposed that Mr. F. Craig be appointed at a salary of 10*l* per annum and a fee of 5*s*. for each sample. Several other names were mentioned, but on a vote being taken Mr. Craig was elected by a large majority.

#### Analyst's Appointment Cancelled.

At a meeting last week of the Newtownards Board of Guardians, it was reported that the appointment of Mr. Barklie as analyst for drugs to the Belfast Union had been cancelled by the Local Government Board, and the Guardians deferred making an appointment pending further information on the point.

#### L.G.B. Not Satisfied.

The Local Government Board, Dublin, have written to the Guardians of the Lisburn Union, informing them that before they can sanction the appointment of Mr. Robert Barklie to the position of analyst of drugs for the Union, they must be satisfied that he has had considerable experience in the analysis of drugs and has, after examination, obtained a diploma in pharmacy, materia medica, and volumetric examination of drugs from a recognised examining body.

#### Will Do the Work for Nothing.

Competition for the newly-created position of analysts to the Irish Poor-law Unions would appear to be keen. At the weekly meeting of the Athlone District Council last week Sir Charles Cameron wrote stating that he is prepared to analyse the food and drink free of charge. The Board thought it was very generous of Sir Charles to work for nothing.

#### Cheapening the Analyst.

The Skibbereen Rural District Council have directed their Clerk to write to Mr. O'Mahony, county analyst, to find out for what salary he will analyse their drugs and medicines; and they have written to the other unions, soliciting the co-operation of all the Boards of the county to appoint an analyst, as probably they would get one man to do all the work at a cheaper *pro-rata* rate.

#### Company's Dividend.

The directors of Messrs. W. & H. M. Goulding (Limited), Dublin, recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the debenture stock, the usual dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and also an interim dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares of the company for the half-year ending June 30, 1899.

#### Shop-hours Act Prosecutions.

In the Dublin Police Courts last week Mr. Rice, law-agent for the Corporation, prosecuted Mr. Henry S. Misstead, pharmaceutical chemist, 68 Upper Clanbrassil Street, for failing to exhibit in a conspicuous place on his premises, in which there were employes under the age of 18, the notice required under the Shop-hours Act. The Magistrate imposed a fine of 2*s*. 6*d*. and 2*s*. 6*d*. costs. In a similar case, brought by Mrs. L. Gallagher, female inspector, against Messrs. Henry Williams & Co. (Limited), grocer-chemists, Lower Baggot Street, the defendants were fined 10*s*. and 5*s*. costs.

#### Guardians and Drug-contract.

The Guardians of the Mountmellick Union met last week to consider their position in regard to the medicine-contract, details of which had been reported to the Local Government Board. The Chairman said the contractor, Mr. Bolger, should be called upon to perfect his bond. It might involve them in a lawsuit if the matter was not settled. The Clerk said Mr. Bolger had supplied a lot of medicines, and he might charge what he liked if the contract was not completed. It being the opinion of the Guardians that there was no alternative, it was ordered that Mr. Bolger's bond be perfected without further delay.

#### The Merchandise Marks Act.

At Newtownards, William Pink, mineral-water manufacturer, Donaghadee, has been prosecuted under the Merchandise Marks Act for selling on four different occasions aerated waters to which a false trade description was applied. The Belfast Bottle Exchange Company (Limited) were the complainants. The case was that the defendant covered with his own labels bottles branded with the name and trade-mark of other mineral-water manufacturers. The offence was admitted, but intention to deceive was denied. Defendant wished to join the Bottle Exchange, and was invited to send an apology, which he did, but notwithstanding the prosecution was instituted. A fine of 1*l*. was imposed, and 18*s*. 6*d*. costs.

#### Alleged that he Sold Poison.

An action to recover damages laid at 2,000*l*. for slander was taken last week in the Queen's Bench Division, Dublin. Mr. Patrick H. O'Neill, general merchant, of Miltown Malbay, county Clare, complained that Dr. O'Brien, a local medical man, falsely and maliciously said of him:—"I sent to Mr. O'Neill for a glass of turpentine, and I got instead a glass of carbolic acid. The turpentine was required for a sick cow. Mr. O'Neill is drinking very hard recently, as he is canvassing about the elections, and it is dangerous to have him handling poisons." The plaintiff averred that this meant that he was guilty of carelessness and negligence in the exercise of his trade, and that he was guilty of an offence—selling poison—for which he was liable to be imprisoned. The plaintiff said he never sold carbolic acid, and had not kept it in his shop for the past five years, and denied that he was drinking at the time in question. The defendant denied that he used the words complained of in connection with the plaintiff's trade, or that they bore the meaning imputed. He pleaded that he sent his son Joseph to purchase a glass of turpentine at the plaintiff's shop, and his son got what he (defendant) believed to be carbolic acid, and that without malice he mentioned the matter to a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary. The jury found for the plaintiff, damages 50*l*.

#### Trench's Cure for Epilepsy.

In Dublin, on June 21, before the Lord Chief Justice, John Richard Eyre sued Mr. Townsend Trench (through his



assignees in bankruptcy) Mr. John I. Bernard, and Mr. Tounly Hardman, to recover damages for breach of contract to employ him as advertising agent, and to recover 200*l.* received by the defendants for the plaintiff's use. The defendants denied the agreement, and paid 5*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* into court. It appeared that the plaintiff had been employed by Mr. Trench as an advertising agent, and in that capacity got a discount on advertisements which gave him a salary of about 200*l.* a year. In 1893 Mr. Trench proposed to form a limited company for the sale of his medicine, in which Mr. J. I. Bernard, chemist, and Mr. Hardman, a solicitor, were concerned. The plaintiff alleged that the defendants agreed to continue to employ him on the same terms as Mr. Trench, but that they had broken the contract. The company was never floated, and Mr. Trench had since become a bankrupt. A considerable amount of correspondence was opened in the case. In a letter of April 5, 1893, Mr. Trench wrote to Mr. Bernard in reference to the "Cure for Epilepsy":—"I do not know am I a director now or not. Will you please let me know? At any rate, I fancy my part of the play is to advise the patients for the benefit of the company, but at my own risk of being hanged if I kill any one." The jury found for the defendants.

## Scotch News.

*Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.*

### Traded Trip.

The employés of Messrs. Cockburn & Co. (Limited), wholesale chemists, Glasgow, held their annual picnic on Saturday, journeying to Lochwinnoch by train, where, after a hearty meal, various sports were indulged in. The Calder Glen, one of the prettiest spots in Scotland, was close by, and tempted many of the party to an evening stroll.

### Physiology Chair in Edinburgh.

The Chair of Physiology in the University of Edinburgh, which has been keenly competed for, has been filled by the appointment of Professor E. A. Schäfer, F.R.S., of the University College, London. Although the new professor holds only the M.R.C.S. diploma, he is one of the most distinguished of the younger race of physiologists, and was appointed to the Jodrell professorship of the University College when Sir J. S. Braddon Sanderson went to Cambridge. He is an LL.D. of Aberdeen.

### A Well-known Pharmacist's Death.

The late Mr. George Harvie, chemist, Helensburgh, whose death we recorded in last week's issue, had only recently ceased to take an active part in the supervision of his business. He was a native of Ayr, where he was in business on his own account for several years, prior to the passing of the 1868 Act. Mr. Harvie moved to the popular Clyde watering-place about thirty years ago, and established the business which is now one of the best in the town. He took a keen interest in local pharmaceutical affairs, and was for some years a member of the West of Scotland Chemists' Association. A kind and considerate employer, he did everything possible to encourage his assistants and to further their individual interests. Amongst the mourners at the funeral on June 20 were a number of Glasgow chemists.

### The Chloroform-still Explosion.

The report of the Board of Trade inquiry respecting the explosion from a chloroform-still which occurred at the works of Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart & Co., chemists, Edinburgh, on January 13, has been issued. According to the report the explosion was apparently caused by the accumulation of vapour inducing a greater pressure than the still could withstand, but how such accumulation arose was not clear. The engineer-in-chief, in his report to the Board, stated that the apparatus appeared to have been unprovided either with a safety-valve or alarm, it not being usual to fit stills of that description with these requisites, but he thought, as did the Board's surveyor, that it should be impressed upon users of this and similar apparatus that the omission of such

fittings involved considerable risk to those employed near them.

### Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association.

The second botanical excursion took place on June 16, to Royston, going by train from Waverley Station at 8.20 P.M. to Granton, and walking along the shore, where many interesting maritime plants were found. There was a good attendance, and the party was conducted by the President (Mr. Fraser McDiarmid). The return journey was by train from Craigleith, at 10.42 P.M. It was felt that if chemists had shorter hours, and could start an hour earlier, there would be much better work, as darkness came on far too soon for the plant-hunters. The second summer meeting was held at 33 York Place, on June 21, Mr. David Harley (Vice-President) in the chair. The plants collected by members were named and described by Mr. Rutherford Hill. After the demonstration the Association elected Mr. James Lennox, 139 Princes Street, to the vacant office of Secretary.

### Edinburgh Pharmacists and the Lord Chancellor's Proposals.

Taking advantage of the Parliamentary vacancies in South and East Edinburgh, a joint meeting of registered chemists having votes, convened by Mr. James Paton and Mr. Olande F. Henry, the respective Divisional Secretaries, was held in the Pharmaceutical Society's House, 36 York Place, on a recent date. Mr. J. Laidlaw Ewing was called to the chair. After a free interchange of opinion, it was agreed to send to each of the four candidates for the two vacancies a

#### *Memorandum on the Companies Acts Amendment Bill.*

After quoting the objectionable Clause 2 which applies the Pharmacy Act to companies, the memorandum proceeded:—

You will observe that this clause proposes to confer the titles of "pharmaceutical chemist" and "chemist and druggist" on others than those who have passed the examinations provided for by the Pharmacy Acts, 1852 and 1868, which confer and protect these personal titles for the safety of the public.

The aforesaid titles imply a personal qualification on the part of those using them, and the general use of such personal titles by parties not possessing, and incapable of acquiring, the qualification implied therein destroys the statutory significance of the said titles, and would prove misleading to the public. Registered chemists therefore object to the passing of the Bill with this clause.

I was instructed to ask your favourable consideration of this memorandum, and that, if elected, you would oppose this Bill in the House of Commons, unless Clause 2 is withdrawn.

It was agreed that the respective Divisional Secretaries should forward the memorandum to each of the candidates, and, in the event of any deputation being found necessary, Messrs. J. Laidlaw Ewing and James Paton were appointed to act as such for South Edinburgh, and Messrs. John Bowman and Claude F. Henry for East Edinburgh. It was also agreed that the replies should be sent to the registered chemists having votes in the two divisions, it being left to each voter to act on his own judgment in voting. The candidates for South Edinburgh replied as follows:—

Major-General A. G. Wauchoppe wrote: "I fully realise the importance of the question which you raise, both to the chemists and the general public, and I will do anything in my power to prevent the sale and dispensing of drugs by any but fully competent and qualified men." At an interview he said that, if elected, he would oppose Clause 2 of the Companies Acts Amendment Bill, so that chemists might have time for fuller consideration of the matter.

Mr. Arthur Dewar, advocate, who proved the successful candidate, said at an interview: "If elected I agree to oppose Clause 2 of the Companies Acts Amendment Bill, so that chemists may have further time to consider the matter."

#### The candidates for East Edinburgh also replied.

Mr. Harry G. Younger wrote: "I quite agree with what you wish, and would, if elected, oppose the passing of this clause."

Councillor George McCrae, the successful candidate, at an interview said exactly the same as Mr. Dewar—viz.: "If elected I agree to oppose Clause 2 of the Companies Acts Amendment Bill, so that chemists may have time for fuller consideration."

It was found necessary in each case to explain the subject carefully to the candidates, and it was also felt to be expedient to limit the matter to the withdrawal of the Lord Chancellor's proposals.



## French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

**THE SECOND-CLASS DIPLOMA.**—The Minister of Public Instruction has fixed March, 1900, as the extreme limit for students to inscribe themselves for the lower diploma of pharmacien.

**THE PREPARATION OF THE NEW CODEN** continues to make good progress. The 9th subsection has presented the result of its deliberation on fluid extracts, while M. Portes has handed in his report on methods of standardising various drugs and preparations.

**A MAD DOG** managed to gain access to M. Dubois's pharmacy, 13 Place du Havre, Paris, one afternoon a few days ago, and bit M. Jacquet, an assistant, on the right arm. The dog was killed by two policemen with their sabres, and M. Jacquet went without delay to the Pasteur Institute for the anti-rabies treatment.

**AN ULTIMATUM.**—The Syndicate of Pharmacists of the Vaucluse has addressed a circular to the grocers, druggists, herbalists, and religious communities in their district, drawing attention to the fact that the sale of pharmaceutical preparations of whatever nature is the exclusive prerogative of pharmacists. Reminders of this kind are a periodical necessity in France.

**SEDITIONOUS CRIES.**—The pharmacien who was arrested on the day of M. Loubet's election as President of the Republic for uttering seditious cries and condemned to a short term of imprisonment has appealed against the sentence, and obtained a verdict in his favour. The principal defence was that the pharmacien belongs to a Patriotic League, and in that capacity could not be guilty of sedition, in which view the Judge leniently acquiesced.

**SEQUEL TO A PHARMACIST'S REVENGE.**—The 10-year-old daughter of a pharmacist at La Rainey was attacked by a little boy the other day, and to punish him the pharmacist caught him and branded him on the forehead with the word "brigand" with a nitrate-of-silver pencil. When the blackness developed on the boy's forehead his friends had a stormy interview with the pharmacist, and did not leave before they had done a good deal of damage to his pharmacy.

**THE CENTENARY OF THE METRE** occurred last week, it being just 100 years on June 22, 1899, since the Corps Legislatif of the fourth Messidor an. vii. adopted and authorised the use of the new measures in France. This interesting date has passed almost unnoticed in Paris, and, as far as I can learn, the principal celebration of the centenary has been the letter written by the Paris Inspector of Weights and Measures warning pharmacists that they must fully adopt the metric system without delay, and entirely give up the use of the old methods of weights and measures.

**A PHARMACIEN OTHELLO.**—A pharmacien at Nogent-sur-Marne, near Paris, objected to the footing of intimacy that appeared to exist between his wife and assistant. He dismissed the latter without more ado, and peace seemed restored to his household. This occurred a few weeks ago; but one day last week a mean and meddlesome acquaintance sent the pharmacien an anonymous letter containing the most irritating insinuations. In an excess of anger he sought out his ex-assistant, who has obtained another situation in Paris, and fired at him three times with a revolver. The intended victim was only very slightly hurt, but his new employer's wife was so much frightened on hearing the commotion and the revolver-shots that she took to her bed and died. She was the mother of five children, and this unfortunate tragedy has caused a very painful impression.

**LEGITIMATE COUNTER-PRESCRIBING.**—M. Guillemin makes some sensible remarks on this subject. Referring to the necessity of union between doctors and pharmacists to prevent quackery, he writes: "But you say pharmacists give consultations. Not exactly; the elders among us give counsels, and our business renders it necessary that we should give the customer such information as he asks, otherwise he will go to another pharmacy. This does no harm to doctors

in my opinion. Suppose for an instant that every pharmacist in the town refuses to give advice when asked for. Do you think the patient would go to a doctor for a trifling ailment or accident? Not at all: he will simply find some goodwife, amateur cattle-doctor, or similar quack who will gratuitously indicate the thousand-and-one erroneous remedies, tried and changed ten times a day, and which would often do harm, did not the pharmacist discourage their use."

**THE APOTHECARY'S OATH.**—Dr. Legne, in a leading article in the *Journal* (a widely-circulated Paris daily) on a recent poisoning case, quotes the oath prescribed in 1566 by the French Parliament to be taken by apothecaries. The use of this oath, he states, was continued till about a century ago. It commenced, "I swear before God, Author and Creator of all, to love and honour my parents as much as possible; to do all I can for the honour, glory, ornament, and majesty of medicine; to do nothing rashly without doctors' advice and in hope of gain only." Further on we read, "I swear to execute doctors' prescriptions exactly, neither adding to nor diminishing, so long as they are regularly drawn up according to the rules of the art; never to use substitutes without the advice of someone more learned than myself; to give aid indifferently to all who ask it; and, finally, to keep no old or stale drug in my shop. And God bless me always so long as I keep these promises."

**TRADE-MARK CASE.**—Rather more than ten years ago a Paris pharmacien, M. Rocher, launched for the benefit of a confiding public three specialties bearing his name, for which he registered the labels as trade-marks. In due course he found that heavy advertising expenses had eaten up all his capital. He consequently called his principal creditors together in February, 1889, and an arrangement was made by which they formed a syndicate for taking over his business, including the trade-marks, in settlement of their claims. In May, 1896, the syndicate disposed of their rights in the trade-marks of the specialties to a pharmacist, M. Guinet by name. A few months later Rocher brought an action for the recovery of his rights in the trade-marks, on the ground that he had not fully realised the conditions of the sale, and that as the pharmaceutical preparations for which the trade-marks were intended are secret remedies, the two could not be separated, as the use of the marks on other products would render them illicit. The case was heard in December, 1896, and in April 1898 and decisions were given against the plaintiff. M. Rocher carried the case to the Paris Court of Appeal and lost again, having also to bear the cost of the various hearings. The Court held that the plaintiff's theory was quite wrong, and that a trade mark constitutes a distinct property from the object on which it may be placed or connected.

**IN THE "GOOD OLD TIMES."**—Dr. Dorveaux, librarian at the Paris School of Pharmacy, has just published a handsomely-produced little volume, in which he reprints Lespleigne's "Promptuaire de Médecines Simples." In a special preface he draws attention to an interesting poisoning-case of the Middle Ages, which, I believe, has never been published in England, though it has appeared in several standard French works on toxicology. In 1384 the King of Navarre bribed Robert de Woudreton, an Englishman, who is described as a "minstrel's valet," to go to Paris and attempt to poison King Charles VI. of France and his uncles, the Dukes of Berry and Burgundy, by "arsenic sublimat," which in those days was to be found "in all the good towns and hostels of apothecaries." Woudreton left the King of Navarre's Court at Olite (Spain) and travelled to Bayonne, where he called at an apothecary-grocer's (both trades then belonged to the same corporation in France as in England) and asked for the poison. The apothecary, mindful of the Poisons Act of those days, inquired if he desired it red or white, and for what purpose. Woudreton replied he wished for "sublimat," and that it was for a wound his horse had sustained. He was doubtless aware that the law forbade the supply of arsenic without a physician's prescription, except for veterinary medicine. He thus obtained a  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz., for which he paid 10 "blanes" (a copper coin of small value). The apothecary was possibly suspicious, and perhaps communicated with the authorities. At any rate, the Englishman was arrested on his arrival in Paris, tried, and quartered on the Place de la Grève in 1384.



## South African News.

(From our Correspondents.)

**A CAPE INSOLVENCY.**—The insolvency of Mr. Thomas Hood, chemist and mineral-water manufacturer, Worcester, C.C., was gazetted on June 2.

**HENRY TATE**, the faith-curer, who was fined 50*l.* at Cape Town for illegally practising as a medical man, has not, after all, appealed against the decision, and has paid the fine rather than go to prison for a year.

**DRINKS IN THE TRANSVAAL.**—A sensational series of articles on "faked" liquors appeared in recent issues of the *Transvaal Leader*. The articles commenced by describing the price-list of a firm of Johannesburg chemists, which has at the foot of each page a line advertisement stating that a headache-cure, bearing the name of a well-known Liverpool analyst, "acts immediately," which commendation sounds *à propos*, it is suggested, when found at the bottom of a page in which essences of brandy, cognac, gin, rum, sherry, and whisky occur. The *Leader* states that not only are the liquors of the Transvaal compounded on the spot, but that the labels are imitations of well-known brands. We are not concerned about that, but the recipes given by the *Leader* are interesting. Here are a few:—

### Brandy from Raw Spirits.

Oil of cognac	...	...	...	1/2 oz.
Green tea	...	...	...	1 lb.
Oil of neroli	...	...	...	40 drops
Acetic ether	...	...	...	2 oz.

Add 100 gals. spirits 5 over proof. If spirit is 10 under proof add 3 oz. sulphate of copper. Colour with sugar spirit and burnt sugar.

### Liqueur Brandy.

Orris-root	...	...	...	3 dr.
Vanilla	...	...	...	1/2 dr.
Sugar syrup	...	...	...	1 pint
Oil of cognac	...	...	...	10 drops
Acetic ether	...	...	...	1/2 oz.
Cayenne pepper	...	...	...	1/2 oz.
Spirit 10 over proof	...	...	...	10 gals.

Colour with burnt sugar.

In the latter case, it is explained, the "fine old brown" shade is evident, and the "nip" is given by the cayenne. "Bead," says the manufacturer, is given as follows:—

Oil of almonds	...	...	...	1 oz.
Sulphuric acid	...	...	...	1 oz.

Rub together in a mortar with glycerin and a little spirit until it becomes a clear liquid.

Age is given to brandy by adding a small quantity, about three drops per gal., of "spirits of ammonia." Next is given a recipe for—

### Holland's Gin.

Juniper oil	...	...	...	1 oz.
Turpentine	...	...	...	4 oz.
Sugar syrup	...	...	...	1 gal.
Oil of fennel	...	...	...	1/2 oz.
Tincture of orange-peel	...	...	...	1 lb.
Delagoa Bay proof spirit	...	...	...	100 gals.

Bead without colouring.

"The Auld Kirk," which Scotch exiles on the Rand unblushingly imbibe, is said to be made thus:—

Oil of cognac	...	...	...	12 drops
Creosote	...	...	...	20 drops
Green tea	...	...	...	1 pint
Acetic acid	...	...	...	1/2 oz.
Glycerin	...	...	...	3 lbs.
Tincture of prunes	...	...	...	1 gal.
Delagoa Bay proof spirit	...	...	...	100 gals.

Colour and bead.

All the foregoing compounds "should be filtered through animal charcoal and stored in wood with a layer of oak sawdust at the bottom." This delicate invention is calculated to remove any remaining taste of raw spirit, and the object of the glycerin is to give a smooth taste representing age. These are meant for White consumption only, hence the

filtration and other refinements. With Kattir brandy it is different, as will be seen from the following examples:—

Delagoa proof spirit	...	...	...	15 gals.
Water	...	...	...	15 gals.
Cayenne-pepper tincture	...	...	...	1 gal.
Nitric ether	...	...	...	1 oz.
Sulphuric acid	...	...	...	1 1/2 oz.
Prunes, mashed	...	...	...	1/2 lb.

Colour with burnt sugar and bead.

Delagoa proof spirit	...	...	...	10 gals.
Water	...	...	...	10 gals.
Green tea	...	...	...	1 pint
Sugar syrup	...	...	...	1/2 pint
Verdigris	...	...	...	1/2 oz.
Nitric ether	...	...	...	1 oz.

Colour and bead. More sulphuric for the bead, of course.

These prescriptions, the *Leader* asserts, are in daily use, and spurious imitations of various well-known brands of whisky, brandy, and gin, are served with impunity over some of the most reputable, as well as over nearly all the less reputable, bars in Johannesburg and Pretoria.

**SHEEP-DIPS.**—A letter has been addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture, Cape Town, by sheep-dip firms or their agents in the Cape, protesting against the favour shown to lime and sulphur, as sheep-dip, by Mr. Davison, the Colonial Chief Inspector of Sheep. Steps have been taken by the Department to ascertain the opinion entertained in England of lime and sulphur and tobacco as sheep-dips; but the protestors consider that the opinions of Cape sheep-farmers should also be taken.

**FOR SELLING HIERA PICRA.**—On May 15, Mr. Abraham Harris, a young chemist in business at 32 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, was apprehended on a charge of *verrekken van miskraam* (procuring abortion) and culpable homicide. The chief evidence in the case was supplied by a midwife and her daughter, who attended the woman who died. The defendant admitted supplying deceased with medicine of an entirely innocuous character. At the trial on May 30, after Landdrost von den Berg had heard the evidence, which showed the deceased had bought hiera-picra from the accused, he (the Magistrate) said it was a very weak case, and it would hardly be necessary to hear the medical testimony. He would inform the State Attorney that, in his opinion, there was no case. Mr. Zwarenstein (for the accused) said he would like, before the case closed, to put one witness in the box to prove that his client had absolutely nothing whatever to do with the matter laid to his charge.

## American Notes.

**NEW USE FOR TABELLE POT. CHLOR.**—The small boy has discovered a new use for these tablets, and the demand shows a decided increase. A tablet is placed in the bowl of a pipe and surrounded with tobacco. It is then given to some guileless mortal to smoke. The small boy's fun lies in awaiting the pyrotechnical display and the picturesque language of the deluded American.

**EFFERVESCENT SALTS.**—Some months ago the writer sent a short note to the *C. & D.*, stating that there was a good opening in the U.S. for a palatable effervescent laxative. In a subsequent issue Mr. W. F. Horton replied, somewhat forcibly, to the effect that the writer did not know what he was talking about. Subsequent events have not tended to confirm Mr. Horton's statement, and the Abbey Effervescent-salt Company have just started an aggressive advertising campaign in New York, recognising that Americans are more and more taking to this popular style of medication, and that a rich harvest is ready to be reaped.

**SCOTT'S EMULSION.**—The Ohio Food and Dairy Commission has signally failed to prove its claim that this article was "adulterated" with morphine. The defence practically proved their contention that blackmail was at the bottom of the Commission's attack. The so-called expert witnesses for the State presented a most miserable appearance in the witness-box, admitting that their claims regarding the presence of morphine were based simply on colour-reactions



obtained with an amylic alcohol extract of the residue from an alcoholic extract of the emulsion, and that no attempt was made to purify the residue. One of the "experts" even admitted that his colour-reactions did not conclusively prove the presence of morphine, and that, had he known it was a criminal case, he would have been "more careful."

A "NATURAL MINERAL WATER."—One of the latest natural mineral waters which is enjoying a wide popularity here has an interesting origin. A gentleman connected with the drug-trade was some time since living across the Hudson, on the New Jersey shore, and found the Jersey City water somewhat objectionable as a beverage. This water is unique amongst water-supplies, and is shipped to New York and sold in the cheaper restaurants as a French *consommé*, its "total solid" content well adapting it to that end. The drug-trade gentleman likes to know what is in his soup, and prefers thinner water, so he sank a well on his land and found water at 30 feet. Owing, however, to its proximity to the Hudson River and the ocean, the water from the well was decidedly brackish. Not wishing to let his trouble go for nothing, the well-sinker decided to bottle this water and sell it to a guileless public as a "pure natural mineral water." Judicious advertising has secured for it a very large sale.

LONG-TUBE FEEDERS.—The injurious effects of the long-tube feeding-bottles for infants have been forcibly pointed out by Dr. Ernest Wende, of Buffalo, who, in a paper contributed to the American Medical Association last week, described the results of his work, which were noted in the *C. & D.* when it started. The mortality among infants from intestinal complaints and zymotic affections is almost everywhere large. Dr. Wende kept track in Buffalo of every death, and, wherever possible, secured from the parents the feeding-bottle used by the infant. He then prepared microscopic sections of the tube and teat, and found the interstices of the rubber, even in cases where apparently absolute cleanliness was attempted, to be swarming with micro-organisms. Boiling the tube in water does not sterilise the rubber. Dr. Wende thereupon started a crusade, and succeeded in getting an ordinance passed forbidding in the city of Buffalo the use of long-tube feeders. Since the passage of this resolution the infant mortality in Buffalo has diminished no less than 20 per cent. Dr. Wende insists on the necessity of thorough cleansing and frequent renewal of rubber teats, and suggests the advisability of rejecting rubber as soon as a satisfactory substitute for it can be found.

AMERICAN IMITATIONS.—Several well-known old English proprietary remedies, of which Daffy's elixir, Bateman's pectoral drops, and British oils may be taken as types, enjoy some popularity here, and especially in Central and South American countries. These specialities are regularly manufactured in New York, and put up in exactly the same style as the English package, even the old-fashioned type and paper being copied, the imitation including the Government medicine stamp. Stamps of all denominations can be purchased in New York, where they are printed and sold simply at the cost of printing. The work is more or less crudely done, but it is sufficiently accurate to deceive the uninformed. In the case of "Hooper's pills," for example, the name Dr. John Hooper is found on the stamp. Probably a protest from the Foreign Office to the American Government might help to stop this unfair competition. [The stamp sent by our correspondent is an exact reproduction, the printer having failed only in striking the proper colour of the red ink; but that is not likely to be discovered by foreign consumers. Our experience with the Foreign Office in respect to continental imitations of English medicines and the medicine-stamp does not encourage us to imperil the peace of the world by calling Sir J. Pauncefort from the Hague to deal with this matter—at present.—ED. *C. & D.*]

A WELL KNOWN PHARMACY.—One of the best known of the New York down-town drug-stores has lately changed its quarters. This is the famous "Astor House Pharmacy," which for a number of years was located in the "Astor House," once New York's leading hotel. This store has been moved across the street to the new thirty-storey building on Park Row. This building is the largest office-building in the world, and is really a city in itself. It rises 380 feet from the kerb, and covers an area of 15,000 square feet. The founda-

tion is built on piles sunk in sand 75 feet below the sidewalk. Each floor contains about forty suites of offices, and ten elevators carry passengers from floor to floor. Five of these are "express" elevators, which do not stop below the fifteenth floor. When full it is estimated that 10,000 persons will do business in the building each day. Moreover, the building is on the direct route up town and to the Brooklyn Bridge, so that a more desirable location for a pharmacy could not be found probably in any country. The electric plant in the building is marvellous, and includes a room 120 feet by 20 feet, occupied solely by an enormous storage-battery, which serves to run elevators and light the building in case the dynamos break down. The pharmacy occupies but a small portion of the ground floor and basement, and is tastefully decorated in white and gold. The articles carried in stock are very varied, and include an elaborate assortment of liquors, cigars, optical goods, and fancy articles. The store bids fair in a few years to be the most prosperous of the down-town stores.

## Australasian News.

A PLAGUE OF MICE has reappeared in the Wimmera District (Vic.), after an interval of some years. The numbers are terrific. A recent visitor says that "where I was staying they were running races all over the house, getting into bed with one, and performing other little tricks. If you went to pull a sheaf of hay from the stack you pulled out also half-a-dozen or so of mice about your ears. Poisoned wheat is selling rapidly in Horsham and the other towns. Residents say the mice are not half so numerous as they will be in the spring, when breeding takes place more generally." These plagues of mice have occurred at intervals throughout all historic times, and so far no really successful remedy has been discovered—at least not in Australia. Perhaps some home genius can supply something to keep the pest down.

PHARMACY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—A correspondent informs the *C. & D. of Australasia* that ten years ago and less a chemist carried on business in each of eight towns that he mentions, which now do not support one chemist between them. These are Gladstone, Crystal Brook, Terowie, Riverton, Orroroo, Caltowie, Port Germein, Willunga, and perhaps Maitland. Each town is surrounded by a good population, with fairly well-to-do people. In each there is a medical man, who undertakes the dispensing, although, as the areas and mileage are so large, it probably falls more commonly to the doctor's wife or someone else. The club system flourishes. Rich people belong to lodges, and expect to be attended and supplied with medicine for a few shillings per annum for the whole family.

A NEW SOUTH WALES DIPLOMA.—The Registered Pharmacists' Society of New South Wales has felt it necessary to get a diploma, an extraordinary thing for a non-official society to do, and unprecedented so far as Great Britain is concerned, as the Pharmaceutical Society's only diploma is that given to those who pass the Major examination; the membership entails a plain certificate. The design of the New South Wales article is said to be very handsome. The picture is slightly larger than the British diploma, the style of which has been chosen by the artists. With the border it is 25 inches long by 21 inches wide. The Australian coat of arms is surmounted by a mortar and pestle, surrounded by New South Wales native flowers, amongst them the flannels, Christmas bells, native roses, ferns, and palms. On one side the shield is supported by Britannia, with Union Jack and tripod, her dominance of the seas being represented by a ship. On the other side Australia is typified by a shepherdess, with crook, standing on a bale of wool, with reclining lamb. At the base of the shield are the flowers waratah and rose, shamrock, and thistle. Beneath the shield is the panel for the signatures of the officers, and under that, again, a medallion with the letters M.R.P.S. On each side of the panel there are displayed mortars, retorts, condensers, &c.

"PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULAS" is a boon to country druggists; my edition has already paid for itself.—*J. K. (134/11.)*



## Colonial and Foreign News.

**BUSINESS CHANGE.**—The pharmacy of Don F. Ramos González, in Cartagena, Colombia, has been acquired by a new company, J. Elias Ramos & Co., with a capital of \$20,000.

**NEW PHOSPHORUS MANUFACTORY.**—The company to which the "Elektron" electro-chemico works in the Prussian village Sandersdorf belongs purposes establishing a phosphorus mannfactory near there.

**SACCHARIN IN RUSSIA.**—The Russian Minister of Finance has issued an order forbidding the manufacture of saccharin in Russia, as well as its import into the country. The reason given is that saccharin is poisonous.

**COMMERCIAL-TRAVELLERS' TAX.**—A Bill has been introduced into the Legislative Council of Jamaica, West Indies, which purposes to compel commercial travellers doing business in the island to take out a licence costing 25l. a year.

**AN APOTHEKER IN COLOGNE** gave a woman  $\frac{1}{2}$  gramme of antipyrin without a doctor's prescription. After taking it she became cyanosed, but recovered the same evening. Nevertheless the apotheker has been fined 20m. for carelessly causing bodily harm.

**COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS NOT TAXED IN FINLAND.**—The Board of Trade have received information through the Foreign Office to the effect that the new Russian regulations for commercial travellers visiting Russia are not applicable in Finland, and that there is no tax on commercial travellers in that country.

**PRESENTATION.**—Mr. W. C. Gowans, chemist and druggist, who has been manager of Messrs. Cargills' Medical Hall, Colombo, for eleven years, has been presented with a gold watch and chain, accompanied by an address, by over forty of his friends. He has severed his connection with that firm, and intends returning to this country.

**PRESIDENTIAL AUTOCRACY.**—The druggists, perfumers, &c., throughout Brazil, whose grievances in regard to the new tax we have reported upon several times lately, have received a reproof from their President. The committee recently appointed to voice their complaints went to the Friburgo palace on May 4, and according to the local press the answer was arrogant, and even threatening. The President refused to suspend the regulations, and, without provocation, added that if, unfortunately, it is necessary, the Government will make use of all the means in its power to enforce obedience to the laws and respect for the authorities.

**CINCHONA IN INDIA.**—Mr. W. M. Standen, the Government quinologist at Madras, has been deputed to visit Java to study the system of planting cinchona and manufacturing quinine there, and will be absent from India for some months. It is proposed by the Madras Government to considerably extend its cinchona-plantations on the Nilgiris, and a large area of land has recently been cleared close to the Pykara Falls. The *Indian Planters' Gazette*, the official organ of the planters, in referring to the intention of the Government to extend its operations, remarks: "If private enterprise is to be choked off in this way by the Government, the sooner cinchona-planting is given up by planters the better. There is no reason why the Government should extend its cinchona-plantations in the Nilgiris. They established the cultivation, and private enterprise should be left to develop it."

**THE PROPRIETARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**, which is composed chiefly of the manufacturers of proprietary medicines, held its annual meeting in New York, beginning on June 6. At one of the sessions Mr. W. H. Fassett, of London, was present, and he was asked by the President to tell the meeting how the P.A.T.A. is getting on. Reports which we have seen in New York journals of Mr. Fassett's speech contained most extraordinary statements. For example, that the P.A.T.A. membership the first year was 750; that this was increased by extraordinary efforts and a pilgrimage of the society by a hundred or so; and that it is now on the decline. Mr. Fassett appears to be as much astonished as

we are at these statements, and informs us that he never made them. What he did say was that the first report submitted to the first Council, of which he was a member, showed the retail supporters to be about 750, and this was increased by Mr. Glyn-Jones's efforts to 1500, but he could not speak with authority because he left the association during the first year of its existence.

## Deeds of Arrangement.

**Ansell, Charles Edward**, late 69 Mount Sion, Tunbridge Wells, now Norton Road, Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells, late mineral-water manufacturer. Dated, June 21; filed, June 21. Liabilities unsecured, 577l. 18s. 9d. Composition of 9s. in the pound, payable or before July 15, 1899. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Austin, G., Tunbridge Wells .. .. .	10	0	0
Barrett & Elers (Limited), London .. .	14	0	0
Bell, H., Hastings .. .. .	25	0	0
Carbonic Acid Gas Company, London .. .	10	0	0
Clayton & Jowett (Limited), Liverpool .. .	26	0	0
Faircloth, William, Tunbridge Wells .. .	25	0	0
Fowler, B. A., Tunbridge Wells .. .. .	54	0	0
Pett, Thomas, & Son, London .. .. .	25	0	0
Smith, G. & J. (Limited), Tunbridge Wells .. .	33	0	0
South Yorkshire Glass Bottle Company, Swinton .. .	201	0	0
Wallis, Holder & Lee, Tunbridge Wells .. .	31	0	0
Wells, C. F., Tunbridge Wells .. .. .	23	0	0

**Westhead, William**, 10 Gaiolgate Street, Stafford, chemist and druggist. Trustee, Charles H. Wright, Stafford, C.A. Dated, June 19; filed, June 24. Secured creditors, 18l.; liabilities unsecured, 1127l. 2s. 3d.; estimated net assets, 482l. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Barron & Harveys, London .. .. .	26	0	0
Corcoran, B. .. .. .	525	0	0
Coxson, Gerrard & Co., Oldbury .. .. .	13	0	0
Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool .. .. .	50	0	0
Garratt, —, London .. .. .	10	0	0
Harris & Co., Birmingham .. .. .	11	0	0
Jones, W. (executors of), Stafford .. .. .	20	0	0
Nutting & Sons, London .. .. .	30	0	0
Priehard & Co., Bristol .. .. .	13	0	0
Sissons Brothers & Co., Hull .. .. .	15	0	0
Southall Brothers & Barclay, Birmingham .. .	29	0	0
Stafford Corporation .. .. .	20	0	0
Westhead, T., Stafford .. .. .	70	0	0
Williams, F., Birmingham .. .. .	21	0	0
Yates, S., Manchester .. .. .	30	0	0
Bankers' claims .. .. .	25	0	0

## Gazette.

### PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

**Austen-Frost, H., Austen Frost, J. C., McArthur, Y. (now Y. Brooke), and Brooke, E. M.**, under the style of Barron-Brookes Mincester Food Company, Cleapside, E.C.; so far as regards H. Austen-Frost and J. C. Austen-Frost.

**Bartlett, T. W., and Creak, A. B.**, under the style of Bartlett & Creak, Erith, physicians and surgeons.

**Cann, T. M., and Mossop, A. G.**, under the style of Cann & Mossop, Newhaven, physicians and surgeons.

**Fison, C. F., and Fison, W. C.** (as trustees and executors under the will of Corneli H. Fison, Esq., deceased), **Pechey, W., and Fison, W. C.**, individually, and **Fison, J.**, under the style of James Fison & Sons, Thetford, Lynn, Dereham, and elsewhere, carrying on the business of maltsters, merchants, and manufacturers of oil of vitriol and chemical manures; so far as regards W. Pechey.

### THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1833 AND 1890.

#### ADJUDICATION.

**Nosworthy, Allan Percy**, Brighton, chemist.

**MR. C. EDWARD SAGE**, F.C.S., analyst, 8 Fisher Street, Red Lion Square, W.C., has had his letter-box robbed repeatedly of late. If any chemists have written to him and have not had a reply, they should blame the thief.



## Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

### NORTH BRITISH BRANCH.

THE first meeting of the new Executive was held on Friday, June 23, in the Society's House, Edinburgh. Mr. J. L. Ewing occupied the chair. Apologies for absence were intimated from Mr. Martindale, London; Mr. Storrar, Kirkcaldy; Mr. Mitchell, Inverness; and Mr. Ayre, Perth.

### ELECTION BUSINESS.

Mr. EWING having called for nominations for the chairmanship.

Mr. MCADAM, Glasgow, moved, and Mr. BOWMAN seconded, the appointment of Mr. Peter Boa, which was unanimously agreed to, and Mr. Ewing vacated the chair, Mr. BOA taking his place. He thanked the members, remarking that he would have liked if it had been practicable to elect Mr. Currie. He hoped they would carry on the business with efficiency and good fellowship.

Mr. CURRIE, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Ewing, said that during the years Mr. Ewing had been Chairman the work had gone on smoothly and much had been done. It was mainly due to his strong representations in London that they had got such a perfect suite of rooms as they now had. He expressed the hope that so long as he occupied a seat at the Board he would place his experience and services at the disposal of the Society. (Applause.) The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. EWING, in reply, said eight years was a long time to be in a position such as he had held, but he had had much pleasure in the work. He thanked the Executive for their support and Mr. Rutherford Hill for his assistance.

Mr. McLAREN then proposed Mr. McAdam for the office of Vice-Chairman, which Mr. CURRIE seconded. This motion also was agreed to.

Mr. McAdam took the vice-chair, and Mr. Currie, who vacated it, was thanked for his services.

The CHAIRMAN then welcomed the new members of the Executive, Messrs. Burley, Cowie, Gilmour, and Tocher.

Previous to the appointment of

### THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE,

Mr. ANDERSON RUSSELL asked who was responsible for the billet.

The ASSISTANT-SECRETARY: The Chairman.

Mr. ANDERSON RUSSELL: Which Chairman?

The ASSISTANT-SECRETARY: Mr. Ewing.

Mr. ANDERSON RUSSELL contended that Mr. Ewing's period as Chairman expired with the expiry of the year.

The ASSISTANT-SECRETARY said the President of the Society held office till his successor was appointed, and the Chairman of the Executive was in the same position. He further stated that he could have summoned a meeting without the consent of the Chairman.

Mr. ANDERSON RUSSELL asked if the Executive was to be in the hands of the Council, or if it was to conduct its own affairs. Mr. Hill occupied the position of Assistant-Secretary to the Council in London, and as such the Council provided them with his services, but it must be the Executive which should determine the manner in which its business was to be conducted.

Mr. McLAREN said Mr. Hill was Secretary to the Executive as well as to the Council in London.

In answer to a question Mr. RUSSELL said he objected to the procedure.

Mr. FISHER moved that they go on to the next business, and this was agreed to.

Mr. DAVID GILMOUR then moved that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and resident members of the Executive be appointed a General Purposes Committee to attend to any business arising between meetings of the Executive or remitted to them by the Executive.

Mr. FISHER seconded.

Mr. RUSSELL again rose to speak when

The CHAIRMAN asked if he intended to move an amendment.

Mr. RUSSELL said he would move that the committee be not appointed in order to explain his point. It appeared that it had been determined beforehand that the business of the Executive should be conducted in this particular manner. That was going behind the Executive.

The ASSISTANT-SECRETARY said Mr. Russell was under a misapprehension. The item was put down for the purpose of the Executive considering whether it would appoint a committee or not. The Executive was perfectly free to do the one or the other.

There being no seconder to Mr. Russell's amendment, the motion was agreed to.

### EXAMINERS' NOMINATION COMMITTEE.

Mr. FISHER moved that Mr. Currie be appointed to this committee in room of Mr. Kermath, who had retired from the Executive.

The ASSISTANT-SECRETARY said Mr. Storrar had written to him that they should try and retain Mr. Ewing's services on this committee, as his experience was invaluable.

Mr. GILMOUR suggested that Mr. Ewing's name be added to the committee as well as Mr. Currie's, and this was agreed to. The committee, therefore, consists of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Messrs. Bowman, Kerr, Storrar, Strachan, Currie, and Ewing, and they are "to consider any names that may be submitted to them, and to report to a meeting of Executive to be held prior to the meeting of Council in November."

Mr. RUSSELL asked if the names and qualifications of all those who were before the committee would be reported upon.

Mr. EWING said they had discretionary power.

Mr. McLAREN said the appointment was still in the hands of the Executive.

Mr. HENRY said questions asked as to names had been answered on previous occasions.

The ASSISTANT-SECRETARY invited members of the Executive to send in any names to the committee that they might be considered with others.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

It was remitted to the General Purposes Committee to arrange for an opening lecture for next winter session, and for contributions to subsequent meetings which are to be held on the evening of the third Wednesday of each month.

Messrs. Currie, McLaren, Cowie, Davidson, Johnston, and Burley were appointed delegates to the British Pharmaceutical Conference at Plymouth, and this concluded the business.

## Wills of Deceased Chemists.

ADAMS.—The will of the late Mr. W. H. Adams, chemist and druggist, High Street, Stoke-on-Trent, has been proved by his brother and sole executor, Mr. Frank Adams, pharmaceutical chemist, High Street, Stoke-on-Trent, to whom the testator left the whole of his property. The personality is sworn at 4,688*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*

HALLIWELL.—Letters of administration to the estate of the late Mr. John Halliwell, chemist and druggist, 27 Bridge Street, Rochdale, who died intestate, have been granted at Manchester Probate Registry to his widow, Mrs. Grace Halliwell, by whom the deceased's personality was sworn at 577*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*

JEFFERY.—The will of the late Mr. George Jeffery chemist and druggist, Tring, Herts, has been proved in London by his widow and Mr. Charles Chappell, the executors. The testator's estate was sworn at 871*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*

REES.—The will of the late Mr. W. H. Rees, J.P., Dartmouth, pharmaceutical chemist, has been proved by his son and executor, Mr. Colin A. Rees, chemist and druggist, Duke Street, Dartmouth. The testator's estate was sworn at 947*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, of which 522*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* is net personality.

WATERS.—The will of Mr. W. A. Waters, chemist and druggist, Rye, who died on December 30, 1897, has been proved by Mr. W. A. Waters, the son, and Mr. Walter Dawes, Rye. The testator's personality was sworn at 3,839*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* gross, and 3,656*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* net.



## Westminster Wisdom.

### THE SCHEDULING OF CARBOLIC ACID.

In the House of Commons, on Friday last (June 23), Sir John Leng (Dundee) asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention had been called to the large number of painful deaths by poisoning from carbolic acid:

Whether he was aware that coroners had repeatedly urged that carbolic acid should only be sold as a scheduled poison, and that the Pharmaceutical Society has, in accordance with Section 2 of the Pharmacy Act of 1868, applied to the Privy Council to add it to the list of poisons controlled by that Act, but without effect:

Whether, in Ireland, carbolic acid had been scheduled as a poison, and could only be sold by qualified persons, and if he could explain why the Privy Council had refused to schedule carbolic acid:

And whether it was proposed to deal with the subject in any other way.

Sir Matthew Ridley: I am aware that a considerable number of deaths yearly are due to carbolic acid poisoning, and that it has frequently been suggested that the sale of carbolic acid should be placed under restrictions such as apply to poisons named in the schedule to the Pharmacy Act of 1868. Some years ago the Pharmaceutical Society did apply for the insertion of carbolic acid in the schedule, but it was considered that the gain to the public would not be commensurate with the inconvenience arising from the restrictions and the application has not been recently renewed. I believe that the Irish Government have scheduled carbolic acid, but that was done under an Irish Act, and without consulting the Privy Council in this country. I understand that the objections to scheduling this poison in England have now been lessened by the fact that regulations for the keeping, dispensing, and selling of poisons within the meaning of the Act of 1868 have now been prescribed, and that the Privy Council are prepared to consider whether carbolic acid can advantageously be dealt with in some way, but they cannot take any step except upon a resolution of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Sir John Leng's question, we understand, was framed by Mr. C. Cummings, chemist, Dundee. Mr. Martindale, President of the Pharmaceutical Society, was in the House of Commons when it was answered, and subsequently had an interview with Sir John Leng.

## College Items.

MR. G. S. V. WILLS, who this week resumes the sole direction of the Westminster College of Chemistry and Pharmacy, Trinity Square, S.E., has issued a new prospectus. He has engaged an efficient staff of lecturers and demonstrators, and the prospectus affords evidence that he is as full of energy as when he established the school in 1874. In connection with this, the twenty-fifth year of his work at the Westminster College, which coincides with his jubilee birthday and his silver wedding, Mr. Wills has produced and published a 200-page souvenir volume, giving a fairly full account of his own ancestry and personal history, with amusing and useful reminiscences of his College labours. The book is rather scrappy and characteristically quaint; it is illustrated with portraits and other photographs, and by those to whom Mr. Wills is personally known it will be read with great interest. Mr. Wills claims that nearly 4000 chemists and druggists on the register received their education at and passed their examinations from the Westminster College of Chemistry and Pharmacy.

### IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

On June 23 the students and principal (Mr. F. Davis) of the Imperial College of Pharmacy visited Brin's oxygen-works. After the methods of making and compressing oxygen and the manner of testing the cylinders had been explained, Dr. Hampson showed the students some experiments with liquid air. Whilst the liquid boiled at a tempe-

perature of  $-191^{\circ}$  C. some mercury was introduced, and immediately became a solid block. Similarly, a common pliable French nail was immersed in the liquid air, and upon removal from the fluid was easily snapped by a sharp blow. A piece of brass was then placed in the liquid air, and afterwards transferred to a vessel of water, which it caused to become a solid block of ice.

## Trade-Marks Applied for.

*Anyone who objects to the registration of a trade-mark must address the Comptroller-General, Patent Office, Chancery Lane, W.C., within a month of the date of publication.*

*When "no claim" is mentioned in the subjoined abstracts, this implies "no claim for the exclusive use of the word" in inverted commas.*

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," June 14, 1899.)

"PAKKO"; for chemicals, scientific instruments, and photographic articles. J. E. Thornton, Altrincham. 220,558, 220,559, 220,560.

"METOGEN"; for a photographic developer. J. Hauff & Co. Feuerbach. 221,211.

"THIAZINE"; for goods in Classes 1 and 4. Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik, Ludwigshafen-on-Rhine. 222,277, 222,278.

"FERRODOR," "SHAY-DOLITE" (no claim for "Ferro" or "Shade"), and "ARMALAC"; for chemicals. Griffiths Brothers & Co., Bernondsey, S.E. 222,325, 222,326, 222,612.

"CREOSOFORME" (no claim for "Creoso"); for goods in Class 2. J. Brissonnet, Paris. 217,587.

Combination of devices (the essential particular), being a shield bearing map of Ireland, a harp, and wording; for chemicals. Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society (Limited), Dublin. 220,027.

"NICOLENE" and "NICONETÉ" (no claim for "Nico"); for goods in Class 2. Tobacco Trading Company (Limited), Danville, Va., U.S.A. 221,846, 221,847.

"CREOCIDE" (no claim for "Creo"); for chemicals. Sanitas Company (Limited), Bethnal Green. 222,524.

"DOLORINE" (no claim for "Dolor"); for a medicine. A. Bishop & Sons (Limited), Mile End New Town, E. 216,269.

"THANATOLDS"; for a soluble pessary. H. C. Griffiths, Southsea. 218,167.

"RÂS-MÂC" and "PACHÊK," with facsimile signature of the firm for medicines. A. Serruys & Co., Norwich. 218,854, 219,879.

Device (the essential particular), being picture of a lifeboat in a stormy sea; for chemicals. M. J. Wright, Stapleford. 219,752.

"QUINODOL"; for a toothache-remedy. J. L. Huskinson, Chichester. 220,282.

Label bearing facsimile signature (the essential particular); for an effervescent powder. J. Boulton, Stratford. 220,645.

"VERNISOL" (no claim for "Vernis"); for medicines for external application. J. Bell & Co., Oxford Street, W. 221,492.

"CASCANATÁ"; for laxative medicines. Resinol Chemical Company, Baltimore, U.S.A. 221,587.

"KAPSOL"; for chemicals. Allen & Hanburys (Limited), 37 Lombard Street, E.C. 222,038.

"HOSPINE"; for a medicine. J. W. Aplin, Yeovil. 222,084.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," June 21, 1899.)

"Azo"; for an animal medicine. R. Edmonson, St. Helens. 219,114.

Combination of devices and the word "CURATAS" (the essential particulars); for a disinfectant. Musgrave & Co., Smithfield, E.C. 221,867.

"RUBANGO"; for a veterinary preparation. R. W. McKergow, Brighton. 221,976.

"INSECTELINE" (no claim for "Insect"); for an insecticide. T. Pickin, Manchester. 222,554.

"EUGOLIN"; for goods in Classes 3 and 48. Bayard, Son & Bayard (Limited), Golden Square, W. 222,076, 222,077.

"ATHLON" and "CONIC"; for medicines for external and internal use. H. E. Constance, Leadenhall Street, E.C. 222,100, 222,101.



## Legal Reports.

### Valentine Meat-juice Litigation.

THE prolonged litigation, which commenced on May 10, arising out of the action brought by the Valentine Meat-juice Company, of Virginia, U.S.A., for an injunction to restrain the Valentine Meat-extract Company (Limited), an English company recently formed, from using the name "Valentine" or "Valentine's" in the description of their goods without clearly distinguishing them from the plaintiffs' goods, was concluded on Wednesday, June 28, before Mr. Justice Stirling. Mr. Fletcher Moulton, Q.C., addressed his Lordship on the plaintiffs' case, his speech extending over two days. He argued that the real question was this: Was there that deception that, supposing both parties had adopted fictitious names, and such as either innocent or fraudulent, would induce the Court to protect the plaintiffs from damage? He quite agreed that the Court had never interfered in cases of trifling risk: there must be reasonable probability of interference with trade. Without that, no rights existed; with that, a trader's rights were unimpeachable, independent of fraud or no fraud. It was not contested that plaintiffs' preparation was widely known on the market, and the evidence was that it was widely known as "Valentine." In this case the question of a man trading in his own name did not arise. Defendant's name was Charles Richard Valentine, but he did not use that for the company: he called it the Valentine Meat-extract Company. The learned counsel submitted that the plaintiffs were entitled to the injunction for which they asked. Mr. Upjohn having replied for the defendants on points of law, Mr. Justice Stirling said he would take time to consider his judgment.

### Substantial Compensation.

MR. JUSTICE GRANTHAM and a special jury had before them on June 28 the claim of a soap-maker, named Taylor, aged 68, against the Sharp Brothers' Soap and Perfumery Company for personal injuries. It was alleged that while plaintiff was delivering goods at the defendants' premises in Red Lion Square in April, 1895, he fell down a lift-hole, which was unprotected, badly fracturing his thigh. He was seventeen weeks in hospital, and for three months afterwards was an out-patient. The defence was that the plaintiff should not have gone near the lift, and that he contributed to the accident through want of care. The jury awarded the plaintiff 700*l.* damages. A stay of execution was refused.

### Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

#### LIME-WATER.

AT the Lambeth Police Court on June 22, before Mr. Hopkins, E. F. Munday, chemist, Camberwell Green, was summoned at the instance of the Camberwell Vestry for selling lime-water, concerning which Inspector Farmer produced a certificate from the Public Analyst showing that it was found to be only 50½ per cent. of the strength prescribed by the British Pharmacopoeia. In answer to the summons, Mr. Munday explained that the deficiency in strength arose through a mistake made by the wholesale house. Mr. Hopkins ordered the defendant to pay a fine of 40*s.* and 12*s.* 6*d.* costs.

#### REFUSAL TO SELL.

AT the Auckland Petty Sessions on June 22 Thos. E. Mantle was summoned for refusing to sell three sticks of Spanish liquorice to Inspector Thompson for the purpose of analysis. Fined 1*s.*, and costs.

#### MILK OF SULPHUR

AT Bridlington Police Court on June 24 Percy Murray was summoned for selling to Superintendent Cooper, in the shop of Messrs. J. Hardwick & Sons, ¼ lb. of sulphur, which

Mr. J. Baynes, the East Riding analyst, certified was adulterated with 54.72 per cent. of sulphate of lime.

For the defence, Mr. Brigham said this was a legal trap. Mr. Hardwick had been forty-nine years in business, and had not had any charge against him. The sample produced was endorsed as having been purchased from John Hardwick, who might be liable, but Murray was not.

Defendant having given evidence,

The Chairman (Col. Hudson) said the Bench would convict. It was a very serious adulteration. The test by the seller to see if milk of sulphur was pure was of the simplest description. Adulterated milk of sulphur was very injurious to the consumer, and defendant would be fined 5*l.* and costs.

#### ALMOND OIL.

AT the Birmingham Police Court on June 23, Frank Henry Prosser, chemist, 114 Spring Hill, appeared to answer a summons taken out by the Health Department for selling adulterated almond oil. The evidence of the city analyst (Dr. Alfred Hill) was to the effect that the sample purchased by the inspector contained 50 per cent. of peach-kernel oil. Defendant pleaded that he bought the oil as pure, and had no idea that it was otherwise. He admitted that he had not tested it, having perfect confidence in the wholesale house with which he dealt. Fined 1*l.* and costs.

Arthur Tyler, drysalter, 146 Balsall Heath Street, was charged with a similar offence, the adulteration in this case being the same. Mr. Tyler also informed the Magistrates that he sold the oil in the same condition as it was supplied to him, and thought it was pure. Mr. Fisher (a magistrate) said it would be a wise thing on the part of chemists to begin to look into what they were buying and selling. Fined 20*s.* and costs.

#### CAMPHORATED OIL.

AT Burnley Police Court on June 28, Chas. Edward Dodsley, chemist and druggist, was summoned for selling 6 oz. camphorated oil which the analyst certified was deficient of camphor to the extent of 8 per cent. by weight. The sample, instead of containing 21 per cent., contained only 13 per cent. The wholesale price of olive oil, said the Assistant Town Clerk, who prosecuted, was ½*d.* per oz., and any diminution of camphor meant substantial gain to the seller. The defence was that complete solution of camphor had not taken place. Camphorated oil, said Mr. Steele, who defended, was sometimes made with flowers of camphor which would be absorbed by the oil in about two days, but it was not so clear as that made with lump camphor, which Mr. Dodsley had used in that case. There was not the slightest intention to defraud. The oil had not been shaken by the apprentice as regularly as it ought to have been, but the proper quantities of olive oil and camphor had been used. Mr. Dodsley stated that when he examined the sample left with him he found that complete saturation had not taken place. The apprentice had put up the camphorated oil, and when he sold some to the officer he found that the stock in the shop had run out, and went into the cellar for that which he supplied to him. Defendant was fined 10*s.* and costs.

#### GOLDEN SYRUP.

SHERIFF BOYD had before him in Glasgow Sheriff Court, on June 27, several dealers charged with selling "golden syrup" which contained a considerable percentage of starch-glucose syrup. After the first prosecution (in Greenock), the manufacturers sent a circular to the wholesale houses explaining that "golden syrup" contained other ingredients than the products of pure cane-sugar. Mr. George Neilson, Procurator-Fiscal, said that originally golden syrup was a treacle, and a product of pure cane-sugar. Following upon the introduction of beetroot, new processes of manufacture had come into vogue, and there had been found a glucose made from starch, and not from pure cane. The former was only half the price. In two cases, where the percentage of glucose was nearly 80, the Sheriff imposed a fine of 20*s.*, with expenses, and remarked that in future the penalties would be more severe. One dealer, whose wares contained



only 20 per cent. of glucose, pleaded not guilty, and set up the defence that glucose was required for the preparation and production of the syrup. Mr. Tatlock, the Corporation analyst, declared that glucose was not necessary to prevent crystallisation, while Dr. Henderson, Professor of Chemistry in the Technical College, expressed an opposite opinion. Mr. Letham, writer, for the defence, said English makers were allowed to sell syrup containing 20 per cent. of glucose, and it would tell very much against the Glebe Sugar-refinery Company, the manufacturers, if after all they had done to foster this branch of the sugar-industry they were not allowed to be on the same footing. The Sheriff held that the weight of the evidence was against the necessity of glucose, and said he could take no cognisance of the statement that an adverse decision would affect trade. The honest course for the trade to pursue was to state upon the label not "pure cane-sugar golden syrup," but what it actually was—cane-sugar golden syrup and glucose. Mr. Letham said the Glebe Company sent a circular to their customers, and offered to supply them with labels stating the ingredients of the syrup. The Sheriff said he made no reflection upon anybody. He merely pointed out what he thought was an honest and proper course, and one that was best for the trade. A fine of 1*l*. and expenses was imposed.

### Claim against a Workman.

AT Tiverton District Petty Sessions on June 21, Mr. Samuel Marsh, manager of the Exebridge Chemical-works, Morebath, sued a late employé of the firm, named John Hagley, for 50*s*. damages for quitting his employ without notice. The assistant-manager stated that the defendant, after drawing his wages, failed to return to work. This necessitated a man being taken from the works to fill his place, and a certain branch of work had to be stopped at the factory in consequence. The solicitor for the defence protested against the Chairman of the Bench stopping his cross-examination; and ultimately the Chairman and other Magistrates left the Bench, and the case was therefore adjourned.

### Chemist's Assistant Sent to Prison for Embezzlement.

AT the Grantham Quarter Sessions, on June 28, Josiah James Dixon Cart (32), Syston, a chemist's assistant, was indicted for feloniously obtaining 10*s*. by false pretences from Mr. Edmund S. Bowman, manager for Mr. George Coverdale, chemist and druggist, of 72 and 73 High Street, Grantham. A full report of the facts connected with the case appeared in our issue of last week. The prisoner now pleaded guilty, saying that financial embarrassments were the cause of his crime. The learned Recorder said it was a bad case of fraud, and he could not do less than pass sentence of two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

### Sleeping Out.

AT the Dewsbury (West Riding) Police Court, on June 28, George Maskerley was charged with lodging out. He was found on the roadside by a constable at Liversedge, and when taken into custody he told the officer he was "completely done up," that he had only 2*d*. in his possession, and that he was in the Wesleyan ministry. A testimonial was found in his possession from Mr. S. C. McKee, chemist, Tunstall, prisoner being described as a respectable and steady man. Maskerley now told the Magistrates that he was a chemist by trade, and had come from Tunstall, his object being to obtain a situation in a chemist's shop. He had been very unfortunate in life. Prisoner was discharged.

**ARTIFICIAL-MUSK LITIGATION.**—The Société Fabriques de Produits Chimiques de Thann et de Mulhouse is seeking for an injunction against George Lueders & Co., New York, who they say have infringed their musk Baur patent by importing large quantities of artificial musk under false and mi-leading names, and fraudulently undervaluing the same.

## New Companies & Company News.

**NEW STAMP-DUTIES.**—"The duty on the nominal share capital of companies to be registered with limited liability, and on any increase in the registered capital of the company now registered will be 5*s*. per cent. instead of 2*s*. per cent., from Tuesday, the 20th instant, inclusive." This notice was posted up in Somerset House last week.

**GEORGE BLACKWELL & Co. (LIMITED).**—Capital 5,000*l*., in 5*l*. shares. Objects: To manufacture and deal in glycerin, nitroglycerin, dynamite, and other explosives, varnish, soap, candles, oils, colours, foods, &c. The first directors are G. C. Blackwell and J. K. D. Mackenzie. Qualification, twenty shares.

**MELTON MOWBRAY SAUCE, DRUG AND DRYSALTERN COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 5,000*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To take over the sauce and ketchup business of "J. Stevenson & Co.," and to manufacture and deal in food-stuffs, drugs, and drysaltery. The first directors are C. E. Birch, C. Chandler, and J. Stevenson. Registered office, Burton Road, Melton Mowbray.

**COUNTY CHEMICAL COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 10,000*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To take over the business of a manufacturing chemist, oil-refiner, &c., carried on by W. Hill at High Street, Coleshill, and 28 Masshouse Lane, Birmingham, as "The County Chemical Company." The first directors are W. Hill, H. J. Clark, E. Clark, and H. S. Kirk. Registered office, 28 Masshouse Lane, Birmingham.

**BRITISH PETOLITE FUEL COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 400,000*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To acquire from J. W. Leadbeater and J. Davies certain patents relating to petolite-fuel and petolite compound, and to carry on business as petroleum and oil fuel manufacturers, manufacturing chemists, oil-refiners, manufacturers of soap and industrial and medicinal preparations, &c. The first directors are Sir W. L. Young, Bart., H. S. Cross, J. W. Blackburn, C. B. Crawshaw, E. Daniel, and P. V. Robinson. Registered office, 57 Moorgate Street, E.C.

**VINOLIA COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 250,000*l*., in 5*l*. shares (25,000 5 per-cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To acquire the business carried on by Vinolia Company (Limited) (incorporated in 1898), at Malden Crescent, Kentish Town, N.W., and at Lea Bank Soap and Candle-Works, Carpenter's Road, Stratford, E., and to carry on the business of soap, candle, glycerin, essential-oil, and alkali manufacturers, chemists, druggists, &c. The first directors are Eggleston Burrows, James H. Hartridge, William Pinney, Henry Garnett, and Fletcher J. E. Welch. Qualification, 500*l*. Remuneration, 1,000*l*. per annum, divisible.

**MEDICAL GRADUATES' COLLEGE AND POLYCLINIC** (word "Limited" omitted from title by Board of Trade licence).—With 400 members, each liable for 10*s*. Objects: As indicated by the title. The subscribers are:—W. H. Broadbent, LL.D., F.R.S., 84 Brook Street, W.; W. M. Ord, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.P., 37 Upper Brook Street, W.; C. T. Williams, M.D., F.R.C.P., 2 Upper Brook Street, W.; J. Hutchinson, F.R.S., F.R.C.S., LL.D., 15 Cavendish Square, W.; M. Moins, F.R.C.S.E., 8 Harley Street, W.; J. Cantlie, M.B., F.R.C.S., 46 Devonshire Street, Portland Place, W.; and J. F. Little, M.B., M.R.C.P., 32 Harley Street, W. The management is vested in a council of twenty members. The first is to be appointed at the statutory meeting.

**BOOT'S CASH CHEMISTS (LANCASHIRE), LIMITED.**—Capital 180,000*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To take over the business of wholesale, retail, manufacturing, and dispensing chemists and druggists, surgical-instrument makers, &c., carried on at various towns in Lancashire and elsewhere as "Boot's Cash Chemists (Western), Limited," and "Boot's Pure Drug Company (Limited)." The subscribers are:—Jesse Boot, Station Street, Nottingham, wholesale-drug company director; A. Thompson, The Pines, West Bridgford, Nottingham, manufacturing chemist; E. S. Waring, 1 Lillie Terrace, Castle Street, Sneinton, Nottingham, chemist; H. Jackson, 77 Trent Boulevard, Nottingham, chemist; C. W. Harrison, 118 Queen's Road, Beeston, Nottingham,



chemist; T. H. Muir, 11 Alberta Terrace, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham, pharmaceutical chemist; and A. L. Milne, Gedling Grove, Nottingham, secretary. Jesse Boot is the first managing director. Registered office, Station Street, Nottingham.

**NEEDHAM'S (LIMITED).**—The prospectus has been published of an issue of 10,000 6-per-cent. preference shares in connection with this company, which was formed in March, 1897, to take over the businesses of Mr. Thomas Needham, cash chemist, carried on in various towns in Yorkshire. The present issue is being made to enable the directors to enter into and complete negotiations for additional businesses.

**MELLIN'S FOOD (LIMITED).**—The fourth ordinary general meeting of this company was held at Peckham on Tuesday. Mr. E. C. Bliss, who presided, said that the sales during the past year showed more than the usual increase in all parts of the world. Mr. Mellin could not be present at the meeting, as he was in Germany doing his utmost to press the sales in that country and on the Continent generally. He had done this with very gratifying results, and had established a children's hospital, where the children would be reared on Mellin's food, and full reports published from time to time. The company had established large offices in Germany, and as a result the sales this year had almost doubled. The Australian and New Zealand business had been disposed of to Mellin's Food Company for Australia and New Zealand (Limited). The profits of the business had been maintained. The directors' report was adopted.

**HOMOCEA (LIMITED).**—The third annual meeting of this company was held at Winchester House on June 27. Mr. G. D. Jennings, the new chairman, presided. The balance-sheet showed a loss on the year of 564%, which more than wiped out the balance to the credit of profit and loss brought forward of 430%. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said the accounts, although presented by the new Board, showed the year's work of the old Board. The present Board had only taken over the management since March 31 last. They had received every support in pushing Homoea from chemists and drug-stores. In reply to Mr. Earle, who said he was a chemist shareholder, the Chairman said Mr. Brandreth was still the managing director, but his position was entirely changed, as he no longer led the Board. The Chairman detailed the economies it was proposed to effect, and said the present system of advertising would be entirely reorganised. Since the new Board came into operation the business had made great strides forward, and next year the directors hoped to be able to place before the shareholders a better balance-sheet. After the report had been adopted, an extraordinary meeting of the company was held to consider certain resolutions proposed by the solicitor to the company, altering the articles of association. These reduced the fees of the directors, and made certain modifications of their powers. They were all adopted.

## Business Changes.

**MESSRS. SETON LAING & Co.**, colonial brokers, have removed their offices from 124 Fenchurch Street to 17 and 18 St. Dunstan's Hill, E.C.

**PARKE'S DRUG - STORES (LIMITED)** have sold the lease of their premises in High Street, Kensington, and announce that 2,000*l.* worth of the stock is to be sold and the fixtures removed elsewhere.

**MR. BALFOUR REEKIE**, dispensing and photographic chemist, Hamilton, has removed from No. 10 to new premises at No. 20 Brandon Street. New fittings, including a dark-room for photographers, have been supplied by Messrs. Templeton & Sons, of Glasgow.

**MR. GEORGE EADE**, pharmaceutical chemist, 72 Goswell Road, E.C., has had notice by the L.C.C. to quit, owing to street improvements. He has fitted a large warehouse at 232 Goswell Road, where he will continue the wholesale part of the business (Eade's pills, &c.) under the title George Eade & Sons, manufacturing chemists.

## Personalities.

**MR. BRENT GOOD**, of Carter's little liver-pills, is now in London on holiday.

**MR. S. GOSS, J.P.**, pharmaceutical chemist, Barnstaple, has disposed of his business to Mr. F. Marks, of New Swindon.

**THE late Mr. E. Jones**, assistant editor of the *Indian Daily Telegraph*, who died of sunstroke at Lucknow last month, started life as a chemist's assistant, and for a short time studied medicine in Edinburgh. Mr. Jones only adopted a journalistic career two years ago.

**MR JOHN FRITH** has resigned the dispensership at the Southern Dispensary and Newington Workhouse which he has held for the past sixteen years. At the last meeting of the St. Saviour's (Southwark) Board of Guardians it was decided to allow Mr. Frith, who is 76 years of age, a superannuation allowance of 37*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum.

## Marriages.

**COCHRANE—DAVIS.**—On June 8, at St. Stephen's Parish Church, Dublin, Ernest Cecil, eldest son of Sir Henry Cochrane, managing director of Messrs. Thacker & Hoffe, chemists and druggists, Dublin, to Ethel, youngest daughter of the late Mr. J. H. Davis.

**WARREN—MCKENNA.**—On June 8, at the Crescent Presbyterian Church, Belfast, Frederick W. Warren, L.P.S.I., Navan, co. Meath, to Kate A., youngest daughter of the late Mr. John A. McKenna, M.R.C.V.S., Belfast.

## Deaths.

**ANDREWS.**—At Norwich, on June 20, Mr. George Bruford Andrews, chemist and druggist. The late Mr. Andrews commenced business in Norwich in conjunction with his brother, Mr. Cox Andrews, in 1852. This partnership, which was a prosperous one, was dissolved by the death of Mr. Cox Andrews in 1874, and since that time the business had been carried on under the name of Andrews Brothers by Mr. George Andrews and his son. Deceased was an ardent Conservative, but took no active part in the political life of the city. He had suffered from asthma for over twenty years, and a severe chill, accelerated by shock, consequent upon the death of Mrs. Andrews a week before, hastened his end.

**COOPER.**—On June 3, Mr. Daniel Burton Cooper, chemist and druggist, late of Vassall Road, North Brixton. Aged 74.

**DODD.**—After a lingering illness, Mr. W. R. Dodd, pharmaceutical chemist, died on June 24. He had been professor of pharmacy and materia medica to the South London School of Pharmacy for twenty-five years. He was made secretary of the school on the retirement of Mr. W. Baxter about the year 1888. He was a very gentlemanly man and popular with the students. He was not married, and was aged about 45 years. The funeral took place at Fulham on Wednesday.

**HARGREAVES.**—At Preston, on June 27, Mr. Mark Hargreaves, chemist and druggist. Aged 56.

**LUGAR.**—On June 14, Mr. Henry Lugar, chemist and druggist, Haverstock Hill, N.W. Aged 54.

**MILLER.**—On June 8, Mr. Thomas Miller, chemist and druggist, Ipswich. Aged 80.

**PHILLIPS.**—At Whitechurch, on June 24, Mr. Griffith Phillips. Aged 87. Deceased gentleman formerly carried on business as a chemist and druggist in Cardiff. He was a native of Narberth, in Pembrokeshire, and went to Cardiff over sixty years ago, when there were only two chemist's shops in the town. One of these, in High Street, was acquired by Mr. Phillips, but in 1840 he removed to larger premises in Duke Street, where he remained for a great number of years. Deceased was one of the promoters of the Cardiff Gas Company, and was chairman of the Waterworks Company before that undertaking was acquired by the Corporation. He was mayor of Cardiff in 1851, and a justice of the peace both of the borough and county.



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## Editorial Comments.

### Carbolic Acid and the Poisons Schedule.

THE reply given by the Home Secretary in the House of  
Commons last week to the question which Sir John Leng  
put to him in reference to carbolic acid seems to indicate  
that, after twenty years' obstinate disregard of the plain  
requirements of the Pharmacy Act, the Lords of the Privy



Council are at last disposed to carry out the duty imposed on them by that statute. Carbolic acid began to figure prominently in the Registrar-General's poisonings column in the seventies, and in 1832 the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society passed their first resolution, in accordance with Section 2 of the Act, declaring that it ought to be deemed a poison within the meaning of the Act. Along with carbolic acid the Council included sulphuric, hydrochloric, and nitric acids, solution of chloride of antimony, hellebore, nuxvomica and its preparations, and vermin-killers containing phosphorus. The Privy Council sanctioned the resolution only in regard to nuxvomica and its preparations. The next year, however, after some discussions between the two bodies, the Pharmaceutical Council drafted a new Bill, in which, to meet the views of the Privy Council, a new schedule of poisonous articles was proposed, and it was provided that these, which were the three mineral acids, carbolic acid, and butter of antimony, might be sold by anyone if properly labelled. It is greatly to be regretted that any representative body of pharmacists should have ever made such a blunder as this. The statutory position of chemists and druggists in this country depends entirely upon their recognition as the only trustworthy vendors of poison, and to suggest that this responsibility might be shared with persons without any qualification was to practically give away the key of the Pharmacy Act. The Council, in addition to this error, made their usual one of overloading the Bill which they thought had a chance of Government adoption. They introduced clauses giving them power to make curriculum arrangements, to give membership of the Society to Minor men, and to transfer certain trivial expenses to the Treasurer. As a result, the Privy Council discontinued the negotiation, and two years later (1835) brought in their own measure dealing with poisons in the manner suggested. It was on this occasion that Lord Carlingford, then the President of the Privy Council, stated that their reason for placing carbolic acid in a sort of subsidiary schedule was that it was only rather poisonous—somewhat less dangerous, he implied, than syrup of poppies. It was agreed to refer this Bill to a Select Committee, which however, in consequence of the general election of that year, was never appointed. In 1836 the Pharmaceutical Council, in a communication to the Privy Council, mentioned the matter of carbolic acid, but did not pass a resolution in due form. The next move was taken in October, 1838, when a resolution was formally passed by the Council declaring that carbolic acid ought to be added to the schedule, and this time no other substance was mentioned. In the same month the Irish Pharmaceutical Council resolved to urge upon the Privy Council of Ireland the desirability of adding carbolic acid to the schedule of the Irish Sale of Poisons Act. Nothing resulted from the resolution in Great Britain, nor was anything done in Ireland for some years. But in the latter country it was gazetted a poison in June, 1897. This is the whole history of the official action taken in regard to this substance.

That the Home Secretary's statement was one which had been carefully drafted may be assumed from the circumstance that, though the question was first set down for Tuesday of last week, it was deferred till the Friday for the Government's answer. We happen to know that the inquiry was postponed at the express request of the Home Office. It was evident, as we have said, from the answer given, that the official view has been modified. In the early part of the Session Mr. Jesse Collings told Dr. Farquharson that the Privy Council, while not thinking it expedient to include carbolic acid in the schedule of the Pharmacy Act, were of opinion that regulations

should be made in regard to its sale, and they had prepared a Bill for that purpose. This has been the burden of the Government's replies given in Parliament for many years. Some sinister influence seems to have controlled the Privy Council, and rather than surrender their prejudiced policy they have allowed the deaths from this substance to mount up to 200 and more yearly. It is not unfair to assume that official obstinacy at Whitehall has been gratified at the expense of some 2,000 lives or more; and yet, said the Home Secretary, "it was considered that the gain to the public would not be commensurate with the inconvenience arising from the restrictions"—that is to say, the convenience of getting carbolic acid in ginger-beer bottles at the oilman's has been more precious than a couple of thousand lives.

Now, however, we are told that the Privy Council "are prepared to consider whether carbolic acid can advantageously be dealt with in some way." There is only one way of advantageously dealing with it, and that is by scheduling it; and it will be the duty of chemists and druggists to oppose to the end any other plan of protecting the public against its careless sale. That scheduling it is contemplated is evident by the final words of the Home Secretary's answer, in which he says the Privy Council "cannot take any action except upon the resolution of the Pharmaceutical Society."

We do not think the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society have been as earnest in this matter as their position as administrators of the law affecting the sale of poisons required them to be. There never would have been any difficulty in obtaining the support of all persons qualified to express an opinion to a determined agitation against the Privy Council's policy if it had been undertaken. To pass a resolution twice in twenty years was hardly indicative of conviction. At the same time, it was a little shabby on the part of the Home Secretary to suggest that the blame for the present condition of things lay with the Pharmaceutical Society. But we need not concern ourselves now in apportioning the censure. The immediate duty of the Council is obvious. Their very first undertaking on Wednesday next should be to pass the formal resolution suggested; it should refer to carbolic acid alone, for to include other substances at this moment would only wantonly jeopardise the adoption of the resolution. If the course suggested by the Home Secretary be taken, there is little doubt that before the end of this month carbolic acid, at least in liquid form, will be an article which will only be obtainable by retail at chemists shops.

## Carter on the Local Pill.

THE Carter Medicine Company are very shrewd people, and we suppose they have what they consider good and sufficient reason for putting up the backs of the chemists through whom generally their liver-pills reach the public. A chemist sends us a pamphlet which they have lately issued, entitled "A Book that will Suit You," with a few passages marked for our study. One paragraph is headed "The Local Pill and a Caution," and suggests by the aid of a quotation from THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, referring to a Medical Officer of Health's report on some unsatisfactory pills, "that the local pill put up by the neighbouring chemist" is not to be trusted. On another page the reader is asked:—

Can the local chemist compete as to quality of drugs, and carefulness in compounding with large manufacturers with laboratories and plant and every facility that science and money can afford for buying the best ingredients and making the most reliable preparations?



And the pamphlet winds up with the following amiable reference to the chemist who sells the pills:—

*Don't be made a fool of.*

Don't let a chemist sell you something you have not asked for, and know nothing about. Perhaps he will offer you "Little Liver-pills," bearing a label resembling ours as closely as it dares. But what have these pills of his ever done? Are they sold anywhere except in his own shop? Have they faced the enormous publicity of the press? Do they sell on their merits and just reputation, or because "they look like" ours? If you go into a chemist's shop, and ask for CARTER'S Little Liver-pills, and he gives you his little liver-pills, he is trying to cheat you for his own benefit, and not for your good. He is making a fool of you. If a doctor gives you a prescription, you do not allow the chemist to tell you that he has a mixture that is "just as good," and, similarly, when you ask for Carter's Little Liver-pills and have made up your mind that you want CARTER'S, and not some nameless little liver-pills, be sure you get CARTER'S. The substitutor is trying to make a fool of you.

The correspondent who sends us this pamphlet says when he first read this little book he was not making any special liver-pills of his own, and he was selling Carter's without question. But he knew how to make good ones, and in consequence of what he regarded as the uncivil style of this address, he prepared some and put them up in a style not at all like Carter's. He conscientiously believes his pills are better value, and he does not scruple to tell his customers so. He sells ten times as many as he ever sold of Carter's, and gets four times the profit on each box. He is very grateful to the Carter Medicine Company for the start they gave him, and found their pamphlet verily a book that suited him. We do not pretend to sit in judgment on Carter, but we find it difficult to understand the wisdom of thus irritating people whose friendship ought to be useful to him.

## The Future of Cinchona.

THE note which we published last week regarding the trouble in the company which established the Bandung quinine-works was fair evidence that all is not happy there, but more recent news which has come to hand indicates that the trouble has been smoothed, if not settled, and a decision arrived at which will have a far-reaching influence upon the supply of cinchona-bark and quinine to the world. On June 16 a meeting of bankers and cinchona-planters was held at Bandung to consider the whole question of the export of cinchona and quinine, when it was decided to establish in Batavia a regular cinchona-market, whence the bark will be sent and sold by auction to exporters. At the same time an agreement was entered into with the Bandung Quinine-factory, under which that company agree to send to the Batavia market before the end of January, 1900, not less than 10 000 kilos. (350 000 oz.) of quinine sulphate for disposal by auction, and the company also undertake to supply advance samples of the quinine, so that samples may be distributed to buyers in the neighboring colonies, and in Australia in October next. These are the brief details which have come to hand by cable. Brief as they are, it will be seen that they embody a principle which has not hitherto been recognised by the cinchona-planters, and it is evident that if the planters are all in it, and stick together, the days of cheap bark and quinine under 1s. per cz. are practically over. It is well known that the planters live by virtue of advances made to them by bankers and financiers, who have always grumbled at the want of control over the European markets. This new proposal seems to supply what they lacked, for it will at least give them the grip on the local market, and ensure minimum rates for the bark—always assuming, of course, that there is in Batavia a sufficient

number of buyers to ensure the competition requisite for fair prices. The Java people have learnt by the incidents of this year that the world is practically dependent upon them for this indispensable drug, and although speculators are mainly responsible for the great appreciation of bark and quinine, the speculation was based upon the insufficiency of Java supplies. Seeing, therefore, that the supplies to the European market will in future pass through the Batavia gauge, and that that gauge will be controlled by those having pecuniary interest in keeping it big, it does not seem likely that we shall see a return to penny units. India and Ceylon are now out of the running in cinchona-production. They cannot grow the rich Ledger trees for want of the suitable soil at the requisite elevations. Gradually India is dropping all the species except *Officinalis*, and although Mr. Standen's visit to Java may help him to more hopeful experiments on the Indian Government plantations, no market influence can be looked for from that quarter during the next dozen years—if ever. We are in the hands of Java, and the Batavians know it. When the new convention comes into force the despatch does not say, but we imagine that it is forthwith.

## British Certificates in New South Wales.

WHEN the amended Pharmacy Act was passed, the pharmaceutical authorities in New South Wales inserted a section that is now usual in Australasian Pharmacy Acts giving the Pharmacy Board power to register pharmacists holding certificates of qualification of any Board or College of Pharmacy recognised by the Board. They omitted the provision which generally accompanies this—namely, that pharmacists holding the certificate of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain or that of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland should be entitled to registration within the Colony. Their express object in thus framing their Act was that they might be in a position to say to the British and Irish authorities that unless New South Wales certificates were recognised by them, pharmacists holding British certificates would be compelled to go through the same course of study that was required of a native of the colony. A somewhat similar provision was inserted in the West Australian Pharmacy Act, 1894, but there, under pressure from the Government, the Pharmaceutical Council, as it is called in that Act, was constrained to frame a regulation affording recognition to British certificates from the first. The desire on the part of West Australian chemists to admit men who would be likely purchasers of their businesses also had some weight. The Pharmacy Board of New South Wales has been under no such compulsion, and at the meeting held on May 11 the first applications for registrations were received that brought the question under discussion. A pharmacist holding the Major certificate of Great Britain applied for registration. With little or no discussion his application was refused on the ground that the Board would recognise no such certificates until reciprocity is established between pharmaceutical bodies of Britain and New South Wales. Pharmacists on the spot thought that in the amended Pharmacy Act of Great Britain, recently before the House of Lords, a reciprocal clause which they seem to consider was partly promised by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, would have been included. Had any desire been shown in Britain to arrange for mutual interchange, and had there been any prospect of its consummation, the application of the English pharmaceutical chemist might have received different treatment. Another case was that of a pharmacist holding the



Minor certificate of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, who wished to know if he could present himself for the qualifying examination without passing the Preliminary examination. The applicant is now going through apprenticeship in Sydney, in order to comply with the Act, but his application was refused, and he will have to pass the Preliminary examination of the Pharmacy Board of N.S.W. before his indentures are recognised by the Pharmacy Board.

It is a little curious that New South Wales, which has been the first of the Australasian colonies to adopt an enlightened fiscal policy, should be the first to hoist the protectionist flag in regard to pharmaceutical qualification. This action of the Pharmacy Board cannot be effective, and it is obviously untenable from a qualification standpoint. Great Britain will not be coerced by it; the simple result will be that British and Irish pharmacists who are thinking of making a colonial home will take note to avoid New South Wales. At the same time, the New South Wales Legislature, when it finds what has been done, will hardly care to be a party to the suggestion that a pharmacist qualified under the British or Irish Act is not competent to practise his profession in that colony. When Australasian pharmacists have enough confidence in each other to form a conjoint board, and to establish a uniform examination, they will be able to approach the mother Society and talk about reciprocity. Even then the proposal will be one which it may not be easy to accept, but if made under such circumstances, it is one which certainly ought to be considered seriously.

## Increase in Explosives.

DR. DUPRÉ, in his report on the chemistry of explosives, included in the twenty-third Annual Report of her Majesty's Inspectors in that Department, mentions that in July, 1898, he completed twenty-five years of service to the Department as chemist, and during that time there has been a great increase in the number of explosives.

In 1873 the only explosives, other than gunpowder, licensed for manufacture and importation were dynamite and a few preparations of nitrocellulose. In 1898 there were 113 explosives, of which 100 are licensed. Nitroglycerin and nitrocellulose are still the main ingredients of the bulk of our explosives. Not fewer than sixty-two of the explosives on the authorised list consist mainly of either nitroglycerin or nitrocellulose, or of a combination of the two. Yet our knowledge of explosives has greatly advanced.

Thanks to the genius of the late Alfred Nobel, nitroglycerin has been converted into a gelatinous solid free from the danger attached to the use of liquid nitroglycerin, and almost as powerful, which, moreover, readily lends itself to the production of explosives of very varying power and in tensivity of action. This invention, due mainly, Dr. Dupré says, to the Department insisting on the production of a blasting-gelatin free from the dangers of liquefaction and exudation, has led to a great increase in our knowledge of the character of nitrocellulose.

We now know that solubility in ether-alcohol is not, as was supposed in 1873, a function of the degree of nitration, but solely one of method of manufacture. Nitrocellulose, of varying degrees of nitration, up to tri-nitrocellulose, can now be manufactured which are soluble in the above mixture. The most remarkable and far-reaching advance in the use of gun-cotton and nitroglycerin is the recognition of the fact that by converting these two materials into more or less-hard homogeneous non-porous solids they almost completely lose their character of detonating-agents, and may be used as most effective propellents. The rate of combustion of

these gelatinised explosives is under very perfect control, inasmuch as they burn only on their surfaces; by varying the relation between weight of explosive and surface exposed. Almost all our smokeless powders, which have added so much to the power and utility of our guns, are based on this discovery.

We notice that reference is made in the report to the fire which occurred in the premises of Messrs. Hatrick, Glasgow, on January 7, and to the warning letter regarding erythrol-tetranitrate, but no new fact is mentioned in either paragraph.

## ANTI-CUTTING ARRANGEMENT IN COURT.

Kodak (Limited), formerly the Eastman Company, have an anti-cutting arrangement with their customers committing them not to sell their goods retail at prices below those given in the company's price-list, and not to supply any dealers with these goods unless they agree to observe these conditions. Messrs. Gamage (Limited) opened a photographic department, obtained a stock of the Eastman goods, and commenced to sell them below the stipulated prices. Consequently, on Tuesday last, in the Chancery Division of the High Court, Kodak asked for an injunction to restrain Gamage from selling their goods except on the terms named. The defendants denied having purchased the plaintiffs' goods subject to the conditions named, and the plaintiffs said they did not rely on any specific document, but on the general knowledge of their system which the defendants must have possessed. Mr. Justice Stirling refused to grant an interlocutory injunction. He did not suggest that the conditions which it was proposed to enforce were in any way illegal, but he said they were in derogation of the ordinary rights of the purchaser, and ought therefore to be dealt with strictly. He explained that he meant if there was any ambiguity, the consideration of the terms ought to be in favour of the purchaser rather than of the vendor, and that the Court ought to be careful not to act on mere oral evidence as to such conditions, unless clearly satisfied that they formed part of the bargain. He held that the plaintiffs ought to have shown that the stipulations were clearly brought home to the purchaser by means of their invoices or in some other way, and that the evidence did not prove that this had been done.

## A GOOD OPENING.

"There is a future in store for the man who can put a good red marking-ink on the market. Chemists have long experimented, but with little or no success." Thus said an expert witness at North London Police Court on Saturday, at the trial of Geo. Gabriel Wolff, who was charged with conspiring with his sons to cheat and defraud the public. The fraud was alleged to be in the "puzzle-word" competitions, which were made the means of advertising, amongst other things, a red and black "Egyptian marking-ink," which a number of witnesses characterised as "utterly worthless." It had washed out at once, and had not stood the tests which the prisoners had claimed for it. They now stand committed for trial, and during the progress of the case, which began towards the end of April, the evidence given has been far from consolatory to the chemist. Besides the marking-ink, this "industrial chemist" had a patent dentifrice and a patent petroline for the hair, each of which was declared to be of the most common material, and in no way calculated to do what was pretended. The chartered accountants who went through the prisoners' books showed that in fifteen months the "puzzle-word competitions" had brought in over 11,000*l.* in 1*s.* 6*d.* and 2*s.* postal orders for the nostrums named. Of this about 250*l.* was expended in materials, and about 4,000*l.* in advertising. However, with regard to the marking-ink, the "proprietor" of one of the largest laundries in London said there was a



fortune awaiting the inventor of a good red, because many ladies, rather than have the black ink, preferred the red marking-cotton. The defence foreshadowed was that the Egyptian marking-ink had not been given a fair trial, and that the subscribers had rather an eye on the money and jewellery prizes than upon the quality of the ink; but one knotty point was presented to the defence for solution—viz., that the bleaching-material known as “parazone” had been given in the “puzzle-word” competition as “parasson,” and therefore that it was impossible for any person to correctly solve the problem.

#### CINCHONA-GRAFTING.

In his recently-published Volume X. of “Quinological Studies” Mr. van Leersum, the director of the Government plantations in Java, mentions some peculiar results observed in the propagation of cinchona by means of grafting. His researches have confirmed the previously-known fact that *Ledgeriana* grafts derive cinchonidine from the lower stem of the *succirubra* plant upon which the *Ledgeriana* had been grafted, whilst conversely the *succirubra* grows richer in quinine. Mr. van Leersum also found that the influence of the *succirubra* was strongest at the lower part of the graft, decreasing at a distance of some 6 or 8 inches, until at about 12 to 15 inches from the joint it was practically nil; and, further, that the richer in quinine the graft the greater also the quinine-contents of the lower stem of the *succirubra*. The practical result of Mr. van Leersum's researches is therefore that such *succirubra* root-bark is not, as hitherto considered, valueless, but, on the contrary, should well pay the trouble and expense of gathering it.

#### PHARMACY IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The thirteenth annual report of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy is rather interesting reading, principally on account of the inclusion of a series of selected answers given by various candidates during the year. An examination of these answers “clearly exhibits,” as the report states, “the need of great care in granting certificates of registration in pharmacy in this commonwealth.” The following are some of the brightest gems:—

- “Boracic acid is pyroligneous acid.”
  - “Calcium is purified lime.”
  - “Proto Chlo., Bi Chlo., Per Chlo. and Sub. Chlo. are the same.”
  - “Genus of a plant is the part used.”
  - “Biennial is twice a year. Perennial is three times a year.”
  - “Manna is a fruit.”
  - “Fox glove is Hyoscyamus.”
  - “Sine means highest. Hypo and proto mean the same, higher quantity.”
  - “Levis, as magnes levis, means ligature.”
  - “A sudorific renders the action of other medicines more pleasant.”
  - “Piera is an exudation from the tree Hiera Piera.”
  - “Sesqui means water. Hydro Carbon comes from the atmosphere.”
  - “Disintegrating is disinfecting.”
  - “Sugar of milk comes from corn.”
  - “Bismuth is made from arsenic.”
  - “Blue mass is mild chloride of mercury ointment.”
  - “Boric acid is a saturated solution of borax.”
- An applicant claiming nine years' experience, and upon his fourth examination, says, “Krameria is Iceland Moss; chlorine is made from chloroform and alcohol; difference between carbonate and calcined magnesnia is simply reducing carbonate to powder by rubbing; galenical preparations are fatty ones.”

#### INVERSION OF CANE-SUGAR IN MEDICINAL SYRUPS.

Mr. F. W. Haussmann has reported to the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy on this subject, his results being rather startling. The paper (*A. J. P.*, page 585) is too long to permit us giving details, but we may state generally that all syrups containing mineral or organic acids have their cane-sugar quickly inverted. Thus, syr. acid. hydriodic. one hour after it was made, contained  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of inverted sugar, in forty hours 43.8 per cent., and in five

days 62 per cent., the last as high a figure as is touched. The syrup becomes brown, not from liberation of iodine, but owing to decomposition of the inverted sugar. Lactophosphate syrups, Easton's syrup, and hypophosphite syrups showed inversion up to 50 and 60 per cent., according to the age (one to eight months). Syrup of lemon is worse (63 per cent. in eleven months). Syrup of squill has 25 per cent. of its sugar inverted in seven months; syrup of ipecacuanha, which contains very little acid, was never found to contain more than 3.7 per cent. of its sugar inverted; and generally it may be taken that non-acid syrups show little inversion. Syrups made in the cold way do not invert so rapidly as those made with heat but they “get there” in time. In cold weather these inverted syrups crystallise, and it may be (this is our own suggestion) that the crystallisation which often occurs in acid syrups is merely a question of inversion, and not of cane-sugar supersaturation. Mr. Haussmann's observations also indicate the importance of neutrality in certain syrups

#### THE MEDICINE OF LAST CENTURY.

A Workshop correspondent kindly sends us a long apothecary's bill detailing a year's supply of physic to the Right Honourable Lord Saye and Sele from July 3, 1787, to July 5, 1788. Wm. Bacot & Son were the apothecaries, but no address is given. The account begins with “Bill deliver'd, 26l. 13s. 10d.,” which seems to have been about his Lordship's annual allowance for medicine, as the total at the end of the following year amounts to 51l. 4s. 9d. Lady Saye and Sele had her full share of Messrs. Bacot's luxuries, while the coachman, the postillion, the Honourable Miss, the Honourable Captain, maid Lizzy, the kitchen-maid, the laundry-maid, the cook, and various other members of the household helped to swell the bill. Maid Lizzy figures pretty frequently. The largest item is 16s. for a big box of bark pills, and next comes 10s. 6d. for “bleeding Lord Saye and Sele.” A good quarter of the items are for draughts. There are bark draughts, anodyne, sudorific, stomach, febrifuge, saline, and nervous draughts, and a great many not particularly specified. Her Ladyship bought two draughts one day, and then seems to have sent for “a quart bottle of ditto,” for which 10s. is entered. The draughts are invariably charged 1s. 6d. each. Bark in pills, draughts, and mixtures was evidently one of the most popular medicines. Maid Lizzy seems to have been especially fond of it. On December 8 she has six doses of bark 3s., a bottle of bark mixture 2s., and a bottle of gargle 2s. The bark mixture is repeated on December 9, and again on December 11. “Spirits of sea salt,” 1s., is a frequent entry to the debit of his Lordship. The following is a short excerpt from the account:—

			s.	d.
November 22	The Balsamic Mixture repd.	...	2	0
„ 23	Ditto ...	...	2	0
	Volatile Anodyne Liniment. Maid Lizzy ...	...	2	0
„ 24	The mixture repd. Coachman ...	...	2	0
	Rhubarb Powder ...	...	1	0
December 1	Three Saline Draughts Lord ...	...	4	6
„ 2	Two more ...	...	3	0
	Eight boxes antiscorbutic oymnt. coachman ...	...	8	0
„ 3	Two cordial draughts Lord ...	...	3	0
	A balsamic mixture ...	...	2	0
„ 4	Two draughts repd. ...	...	3	0
	The balsamic mixture repd. ...	...	2	0
„ 5	The oymnt repd. Coachman ...	...	8	0
	A cordial opening draught Lord ...	...	1	6
„ 6	Ditto ...	...	1	6
	Spirits of sea salt ...	...	1	0
	Sal Volatile Lady ...	...	2	0
	Detergent oymnt. Coachman ...	...	2	0

Neither Wm. Bacot nor his son would have been likely to vote for the destruction of the House of Lords if its members all did the fair thing to the apothecary as honourably as Lord Saye and Sele did his.



## MEDICINAL PLANT NAMES.

Mr. F. Ransom, the popular Hon. Secretary of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, had just published a reprint of a series of articles which appeared in a contemporary on the "Origin and Meaning of Medicinal-plant Names." The pamphlet is exceedingly interesting, and must be helpful to students. Mr. Ransom has gathered together a great deal of information which is not usually given, but should be, in books of botany and materia medica. Philology is a great aid to the memory, names frequently expressing the substance of a paragraph, and it is good also to have the information in the succinct manner in which Mr. Ransom has prepared it. He is willing to send a copy of the reprint to anyone who sends six penny stamps to him at Bancroft, Hitchin, Hants.

## INTERNATIONAL PHARMACOPŒIA.

On behalf of the Commission of the Académie de Médecine in Brussels, which has been considering what steps should be taken for the compilation of an International Pharmacopœia, Professor Rommelaire has laid a report before the Académie in which it is suggested that as far as possible similar recipes for potent preparations should be given in the Pharmacopœias of different countries. This is an interesting report, in view of the fact that as far back as 1885 Herr von Waldheim presented to the International Pharmaceutical Congress a draft Pharmacopœia in which that recommendation was carried out. Our Belgian friends must be a little more original and decidedly more energetic if they are to have the support of the rest of the world of pharmacy.

## CHROME AND CHARITY.

No. 3 of the *Labour Leader* "White Slaves Series" purports to be an "exposure" of the chrome-industry as carried on by Lord Overtoun, a well-known Glasgow philanthropist, and head of the firm of J. & J. White, Shawfield Chemical-works, Rutherglen, who are probably the largest manufacturers of chromates in the world. The first chapter of this vigorously-written brochure details the public good works of his Lordship, whose yearly givings to charity are estimated at 10,000%. The pamphlet then proceeds to describe the foundation of his Lordship's firm seventy years ago by his father, at whose death Lord Overtoun inherited 1900,000%, and the chief interest in the chemical-works at Rutherglen. There is a fine irony in following the description of the horrors produced on men by the "chrome-sores" at the Shawfield works by the statement that his Lordship "is the President of the Glasgow Hospital for Skin-diseases, to which his firm subscribes three guineas a year." It is impossible and unnecessary for us to enter into all the allegations made in the pamphlet, but we should like to know where the factory inspectors are when "men begin work at 6 o'clock in the morning, and work all day in an atmosphere laden with chemical-vapours (which eat away the cartilage of the nose and poison the blood) and chromate-dust, without a break until 6 in the evening—no meal-hours allowed, and no Sundays off." Quite a hubbub has been created in Scotch religious circles by the exposure, and although at first Lord Overtoun was disposed not to pay any attention to the charges, he found it necessary last week to make a statement at a meeting of the Glasgow Evangelistic Campaign Committee. This statement appears to have restored the confidence of Lord Overtoun's religious friends, although he has admitted that some improvements may be necessary in his works. All this is satisfactory as far as church and temperance work is concerned, but there is a much wider view to take of the matter—namely, that the Shawfield works come under the Alkali, &c., Works Acts; and, although the Government Inspector appears to have re-reported favourably upon the condition of the works, we think this is exactly a case in which the Home Office should appoint a special inspection to be made. Nothing short of this will restore public confidence and completely reinstate Lord Overtoun in the esteem of his *confrères*.

## Retirement of the Editor.

*I have the honour to inform Subscribers to The Chemist and Druggist that my connection with that journal as Editor, which has extended over 30 years, ceases with this issue. In retiring from the work which has occupied the greater part of my life, I desire to thank the Proprietors of this paper for their generous confidence, my colleagues for invaluable aid, and supporters of the C. & D. throughout the world for their friendly appreciation of very imperfect, but certainly sincere efforts to be of use to the Trade.*

*The Druggery A.C. Wootton*  
*Expired - June 29. 1899.*

YESTERDAY Mr. Wootton, whose letter to our readers appears above this, retired from the editorship of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, in accordance with his decision expressed over two years ago.

He leaves with the regret and esteem of the Proprietors of this journal, and, we believe, of all his associates at 42 Cannon Street.

THE PROPRIETORS.

42 Cannon Street, E.C., July 1.

## For "C. &amp; D." Visitors.

*In our recently re-arranged offices we have made provision of a floor with desks, works of reference, and a file of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST for the convenience of subscribers to this journal, especially for those resident abroad or in the provinces when they may be visiting London on business.*

*Catalogues and price-lists issued by houses connected with the drug-trade are kept on file, and may be consulted; and we also suggest that this provision may be useful to employers who may wish for a central place to meet assistants whom they wish to see before engaging. We have also a room capable of accommodating twenty or thirty persons which we shall be glad to lend free for suitable trade-meetings; but we shall be obliged if subscribers who wish to avail themselves of the latter offer will advise the Publisher in advance. The Catalogues can be consulted any day from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., and on Saturdays up till 12.30.*



## Bismuth Salicylate.

Some Notes on the Precautions to be observed in Dispensing it.

By GEORGE ROE.

**B**ISMUTH salicylate has been much prescribed of late years, and has thus earned the distinction of being included as one of the official salts of bismuth. Therapeutically it is an intestinal antiseptic, useful for gastro-intestinal trouble and for summer diarrhoea in children. The mode of administration is either in cachets or suspended in water with mucilage of tragacanth. Some specimens are more bulky than others, a matter of some importance in dispensing, because it considerably affects the appearance of the mixtures. When mixed with water it rises to the surface, but sinks more or less on the addition of the mucilage. The mixtures are much improved when they contain some spirituous preparations, such as tinctures, and in these cases the salt can be either mixed in a mortar with the spirit diluted or simply shaken up in the bottle and the mucilage added last. Bismuth salicylate is a salt the components of which are so loosely combined that they are dissociated on the addition of water. The B.P. states that it is insoluble in water and alcohol, and that it should not give a violet colour with ferric chloride; it is, however, considerably darkened in the latter case, and the filtrate from a mixture of the salicylate with water becomes intensely violet on the addition of the test-solution. Bismuth salicylate is sometimes prescribed with sodium bicarbonate. Such a combination is incompatible, sodium salicylate and bismuth carbonate resulting with effervescence, which takes place gradually, much in the same way as when bismuth subnitrate and sodium bicarbonate are mixed with water. In such cases it is best to dispense with hot water, and thus facilitate the change, otherwise it is possible the bottle may burst, much to the discomfort of the patient. Bismuth salicylate is soluble in potassium citrate after standing a short time; and, to help matters, the application of a little heat is advisable so that it may form the clear solution before it is finished off at the dispensing-counter. It is also soluble in solution of ammonium citrate. It should not be dispensed with iodides, as it changes to a brick-red colour in the same way as the subnitrate does under the same conditions. There are several kinds of bismuth salicylate, differing in the yield of bismuth oxide. The B.P. is the normal bismuthyl salicylate,  $C_6H_4OHCOC_2H_5O_2Bi$ , yielding 61.46 per cent. of  $Bi_2O_3$ , prepared by the interaction of bismuth nitrate or chloride, sodium salicylate, and sodium hydroxide; the latter, however, is not mentioned in the Pharmacopœia. On this point see THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, 1899, page 499.

## Reviews.

MESSRS. DAY, SON & HEWITT have published a sixpenny pamphlet on *The Simple Ailments of the Horse and How to Cure Them*. Cases and symptoms are concisely described in this pamphlet, but the treatment depends in almost all cases on the possession of a stock of D. S. & H. medicines. A Veterinary Chart, published by the same firm, on canvas and rollers, varnished, at 4s., is an excellently produced and a very instructive collection of designs illustrative of the points of a horse, his diseases, his muscles, his teeth, his legs, his hoofs, and the parasites to which he is subject. The chart measures 2 feet 9 inches by 1 foot 11 inches. It is lithographed in colours, and as it is figured as No. 1 we presume it is to be followed by charts of other animals.

*The Microscope: Its History, Construction, and Application:* being a familiar introduction to the use of the instrument and the study of microscopical science. By JABEZ HOGG. 6 × 9. Pp. 728. 10s. 6d. (Routledge.)

WHEN a book reaches its fifteenth edition it is safe to assume that it possesses merit or it would not have survived so long. The first edition of this work was published in 1854, and the present one was reconstructed, rewritten, and revised by the original author a few months before his death, and is probably the cheapest and most up-to-date book on the microscope in the English language. There are over 800 illustrations in the book, many of them coloured, and the scope of the work is so wide that every department of microscopic study receives ample attention.

*Practical Dictionary of Electrical Engineering and Chemistry in German, English, and Spanish, treating especially of Modern Machine Industry, the Foundry, and Metallurgy.* By PAUL HEYNE, assisted by DR. E. SANCHEZ-ROSAL. Vol. II., English-Spanish-German. 8vo. Pp. viii + 269. 1899. Dresden: Gerhard Kuhtmann. London: H. Grevel & Co. 5s.

THIS is the second volume of a series of three covering the three languages; the first, which we have not seen, is German-English-Spanish, and the third Spanish-German-English. The dictionary is excellently compiled and contains a large number of words, many of them of quite recent origin, rendered in the three languages. As far as we have been able to confirm the renderings they are very good, and this we have proved by several weeks' use. We would suggest, however, that the authors should, in the second edition, spell the word oxide with an "i" instead of "y," the latter form being pedantic, if not archaic. Chemists and pharmacists, who have an acquaintance with German and Spanish will find this dictionary a useful desk-companion.

*Richter's Organic Chemistry, or Chemistry of the Carbon Compounds.* Edited by Professor R. ANSCHÜTZ, University of Bonn. Authorised translation by Edgar F. Smith, Professor of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania. Third American, from the Eighth German, edition. Vol. I. "Chemistry of the Aliphatic Series." With illustrations. London, 1899: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co. (Limited). 8vo. Pp. 625. 14s.

RICHTER'S *Chemistries*, Organic and Inorganic, are now so widely and favourably known, especially through their translation into English and their adoption by many teaching institutions, that a formal introduction of them at the present time to chemical students would hardly seem to be necessary. Nevertheless, the advances in chemical science are so rapid, and the changes thus rendered necessary in successive editions of a standard text-book on chemistry so extensive, that the appearance of a new edition of such a work is always attended with interest. It is also quite possible that the merits of this work are not yet so well known and appreciated by pharmacists and students of pharmacy as it is believed they should be, for it affords within a relatively small compass an exceptionally clear representation of the present status of chemical science, especially with regard to the classification, characterisation, and description of the more important organic compounds.

In order to indicate the scope of the present volume, which, as noted in the title, is confined to the so-called aliphatic series, a brief outline of its contents may be given. The introductory portion of the work includes brief chapters on the following subjects:—

*Composition of the Carbon Compounds*, comprising an outline of the methods for determining carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, the halogens, sulphur, phosphorus, &c.

*Deduction of Chemical Formulas*, or the determination of molecular weights by the chemical method, from the vapour-density, and, in solutions, from the osmotic pressure, rise in boiling-point, lowering of the freezing-point, &c.

*Chemical Constitution of the Carbon Compounds*, with a consideration of early theories, radicals, isomerism, polymerism, metamerism, geometrical isomerism, stereo-chemistry of nitrogen, &c.

*Nomenclature of the Carbon Compounds.*  
*Physical Properties of the Carbon Compounds*, including



crystalline form, melting-point, boiling-point, distillation, optical properties, magnetic rotation, electrical conductivity, &c.  
*Action of Heat, Light, and Electricity upon Carbon Compounds.*

The main portion of the work, however, is devoted to the classification and consideration of the numerous carbon compounds of the aliphatic series, and these are embraced in the following principal chapters:—

- I. Hydrocarbons.
- II. Halogen derivatives of the hydrocarbons.
- III. Monohydric alcohols and their oxidation-products.
- IV. Dihydric alcohols and their oxidation-products.
- V. Trihydric alcohols and their oxidation-products.
- VI. Tetrahydric alcohols and their oxidation-products.
- VII. Pentahydric alcohols and their oxidation products.
- VIII. Hexahydric and polyhydric alcohols and their oxidation-products, including the carbohydrates, with finally a short chapter on animal substances of unknown constitution.

In a work so comprehensive in its character it is naturally not a difficult matter to find some statements admitting of criticism, or, perhaps, even to indicate a few actual errors. For instance, on page 18 we read: "At present we know . . . that the peculiarities of organic compounds are dependent solely on the nature of their essential constituent, carbon; and that all substances belonging to plants and animals can be artificially prepared from the elements." This latter clause appears a little too positively expressed, for with due recognition of the great progress in synthetic chemistry some considerable time must still elapse before the above statement will be realised in its fullest sense, or before what may now be regarded as a theoretical possibility will become an accomplished fact. On page 21 we observe the expression cyanide of potash, which is a little lapse from the otherwise quite uniform system of nomenclature. Under ethyl alcohol, pages 118-120, in considering "the conditions of alcoholic fermentation" it would appear desirable to have made some reference to the interesting researches of Buchner (*Ber. d. Deutsch. chem. Ges.* 1897 and 1898) in "alcoholic fermentation without yeast cells." Under ether, page 135, we find the statement that "Hoffmann's anodyne is a mixture of 3 parts alcohol and 1 part ether." This applies to the preparation used in Germany, but it is not correct for that official in the British and United States Pharmacopœias, which contains the so-called ethereal oil as an assumedly important constituent. Such minor matters, which it would serve no useful purpose to extend, do not, however, detract in any material sense from the substantial value of the work as a trustworthy guide for either chemical or pharmaceutical students. As a rule the more important recent investigations appear, so far as possible, to have been carefully noted—as, for example, the classical researches of Emil Fischer on "the purin group," &c. The translation from the German, by Professor Smith, has been admirably accomplished, and we shall anticipate with much pleasure the appearance of Vol. II., treating of the aromatic series, which is promised during the present year. In the meantime the volume before us may be highly recommended for the accuracy and completeness of its information, and for its usefulness either as a text-book for systematic study or as a work of reference for professional chemists.

## New Remedies.

**Pyantin** is a crystalline substance made by the action of anhydrous succinic acid on phenetidin. It is almost insoluble in water, but forms an easily soluble sodium salt which has the same physiological action as pyantin. It has antipyretic properties, but its therapeutic action has still to be fully studied (*B.M.J. Epitome*, page 20).

**Urosin.**—This is the name given by Zimmer & Co. Frankfurt, to compressed tablets. Each one contains chinic acid 0.5 gramme, lithium citrate 0.15 gramme, and sugar 0.3 gramme. Dr. Weiss recommends the combination for uric-acid diathesis, as chinic acid considerably lowers the amount of uric acid by changing it into hippuric acid.

**Dionine for Morphiomaniacs.**—Dr. Fromme has recently reported to a German medical paper on the advantages of dionine in the treatment of morphiomaniacs. In this respect it resembles codeine. The dose is from  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr. to 1 gr., or half as much as these doses subcutaneously. Too small doses must be avoided at first, and the drug must be continued until the symptoms due to the withdrawal of morphine have disappeared. These symptoms are chiefly noted during the first four or five days. Dionine does away with the obstinate sleeplessness and the anxiety attending it. It is made by E. Merck.

**Largin.**—Of the colloidal silver compounds which have recently been introduced into therapeutics this new compound, prepared by Merck, appears to be one of the most satisfactory. It contains 63.5 per cent of silver and dissolves readily in water, the solutions having no coagulating effect upon serum or albumen, consequently the compound exerts its full antibacterial influence in the treatment of gonorrhœa and similar complaints. Dr. L. Fürst has recently reported to *Dermatologische Zeitschrift* on a large number of venereal cases which he treated with injections, bougies, or glycerin tampons, and in all cases recovery was rapid, rarely being delayed beyond three weeks.

**Sodium Cacodylate** is coming into use as the best form in which to administer arsenic *per rectum*. Sodium cacodylate  $[\text{As}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{O}_2\text{Na}]$  is the sodium salt of cacodylic acid—an acid produced by the oxidation of arsenic dimethyl or cacodyle. The salt contains 46.8 per cent. of arsenic, and is soluble in water and very stable, being unaltered by fuming nitric acid or a mixture of sulphuric acid and bichromate of potash. Its chief advantage over injections of Fowler's solution is that it does not cause any irritation of the mucous membrane of the anus, and is as painless in use as pure water. Two strengths of injection are recommended by Professor Renaut, of Lyons, the one the weaker containing 0.25 gramme of sodium cacodylate in 200 grammes of distilled water, and the stronger solution containing 0.4 gramme in a like quantity of water. Two injections a day are made for six days, then three for ten days, and, after resting three or five days, repeating the course. As a rule, the weaker injection is the one required, the stronger one being only employed in exceptional cases.

## New Books.

Any book named in this list can be supplied post-free to any part of the world on receipt of the published price by the Publisher of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Billroth, T. *Care of the Sick*. 52 illus. 6th ed. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  × 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Pp. 334. 2s. 6d. (Simpkin.)

Green, J. R. *Soluble Ferments and Fermentation*. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  × 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Pp. 494. 12s. (Camb. Univ. Press.)

Hager's *Handbuch der Pharmaceutischen Praxis für Apotheker, Ärzte, Drogisten und Medicinalbeamte*. [Hager's Manual of Pharmaceutical Practice for Pharmacists, Physicians, and Druggists.] New edition. Edited by B. Fischer (Breslau) and C. Hartwich (Zurich). In twenty parts, each 2m. (Julius Springer, Berlin.)

Hewitt, J. T. *Organic Chemical Manipulation*. 63 illus. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  × 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Pp. 272. 4s. 6d. (Whittaker.)

Hopwood, H. V. *Living Pictures: their History, Photo-Production, and Practical Working*, with a Digest of British Patents and a Bibliography. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  × 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Pp. 275. Illus. 2s. 6d. (Office of the Optician.)

Hurst, G. H. *Colour: a Handbook of the Theory of Colour*. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  × 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Pp. 158. Illus. 7s. 6d. net. (Office of the Oil and Colourman's Journal.)

Kingscote, E. *Asthma: Recent Developments in its Treatment*. Illus. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  × 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Pp. 196. 5s. net. (Glaisher.)

Maisch, J. M. and H. C. C. *Manual of Organic Materia Medica*. 8 × 5. Pp. 523. Illus. 10s. 6d. net. (Kimpton.)

Newman, G. *Bacteria*. Especially as related to Economy of Nature, to Industrial Processes, and to Public Health. Illus. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  × 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Pp. 370. 6s. (Murray.)



## Correspondence.

*In writing letters for publication correspondents should adopt a concise, but not abbreviated, style. They are requested to*

**Notice to Correspondents.**

*write on one side of the paper only. Letters, with or without a nom-de-plume, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer. Queries should be written on separate pieces of paper, and the regulations printed under the sections to which they apply should be strictly observed.*

### The Homœopathic-medicine Trade.

SIR,—We are naturally deeply interested in the letters concerning the prices at which homœopathic medicines are sold, and your comments thereon, in this week's issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

It has been a matter of great regret to us that the trade in these remedies has become so demoralised.

We do not wish to comment on the methods of fellow-traders, and are quite willing to leave their deeds, or misdeeds, in your able hands; but we wish to make it clear to your readers what our position is in this matter.

It is now some fifty years or more since we first established agencies for the sale of our medicines, the price being fixed at a very fair rate for the retailer, and at a sufficiently remunerative (though in no way extravagant) rate for ourselves—viz., 4s. per doz. for the 1s. size, less 2½ per cent. to the retailer and 5 per cent. to the wholesaler.

After the Franco-German war prices of all articles went up considerably, and we followed suit for some time and charged 6s., less 10 per cent. to the retailer and 20 per cent. to the wholesaler; subsequently a reduction was made to 5s., and the discount increased to 25 per cent., and given to retailer and wholesaler alike.

The prices charged by us have been therefore almost continuously, as now, about 3s. 9d. per doz. net.

This price enables us to give the best article throughout, and does not necessitate our pinching the quality of corks, bottles, &c., nor does it compel us to employ the cheaper kinds of labour.

We have not seen our way to fix a minimum retail price, but should not object to do so if it was proved to us that such a course would meet with the approval of our agents generally.

We enclose for your inspection a copy of our price-list, and desire to add that we have never made an exception to the terms mentioned, nor charged lower rates to any buyer, however large. We remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

London, June 23. JAMES EPPS & CO. (LIMITED).

SIR,—We regret having to trespass so largely upon your pages, in order to vindicate ourselves in regard to the irrational prices of homœopathics, of which we repudiate being the instigators, and shall speak plainly to prevent misunderstandings, and without malice.

The "new house" referred to can certainly congratulate itself at having been, admittedly, such a formidable rival to one styling itself "the largest and most renowned makers in the world."

The spirit and enterprise with which we entered the field were based upon competitive prices, consistent with fair dealing, and at that early period we found one of the oldest houses announcing as follows:—"Messrs. — have gone with the times, not like other old-fashioned houses, keeping their prices as high as their reputation," and we might here ease Messrs. Ashton & Parsons's minds and say the bulk of our customers have never kept their medicines.

We hold quotations of theirs at 1s. 3d. and upwards, and even proof of their charging 1s. per doz. Appended is an extract from their typewritten letter sent to an agent of ours in August of last year, saying: "Not having been favoured with your orders for homœopathic pills and tinctures, we make you the special offer of 1s. 4d. per doz. We trust you will favour us with a trial order"—conclusively showing it was not done to retain an old customer.

Why have they waited until the matter became public property before they felt compelled to concede a uniform price?

In but one solitary instance do we know of our medicines having been retailed at the price mentioned in Messrs. Bennett's letter, and then only where a neighbouring grocer was listing Messrs. Ashton & Parsons's at 2s. 6d. doz., and we may intimate our client's charge is now 4d.

Every endeavour has been made by us to uphold the minimum retail price at 6d., until another house circulated various neighbourhoods with handbills at lower and irregular prices.

Having just purchased a 1s. bottle of Messrs. Ashton & Parsons's tincture of a chemist for 3d., another for 6d. (both containing 3 dr.), and a third from a cutting drug store at 4d., containing 5 dr., we fail to see how chemists are to compete under such conditions, and whether this is consistent with "protection" we leave others to judge.

Perhaps the following, which was pointed out at the meeting of the P.A.T.A., will be interesting, viz.:—

### Varying Wholesale Prices.

Mr. Stokes said he desired to call attention to a matter of some importance. A customer ordered of him a bottle of Ashton & Parsons's Phosferine, but afterwards told him he had had a bottle sent from the firm for 11d., postage paid, although the price he (the speaker) had to pay was 11s. 2d. per dozen bottles net. He had every reason to believe that this statement was true.

The Chairman mentioned that his firm had had to pay 2s. 6d. a dozen for homœopathic remedies to Ashton & Parsons, while their retail customers had been supplied with them at 1s. 3d. Now they got their customers to buy them for them. (Loud laughter.)

Mr. J. H. Wilson, J.P. (Harrogate): Then you are getting 100 per cent. profit yourself?

The Chairman: Oh, no. We do not get 2s. 6d. for them. We charge what we can get. (Renewed laughter.)

We sincerely deplore such a state of affairs, and intend to do business at a reasonable profit, and not at an under-cost price, which is diametrically opposed to all principles of business or legitimate competition; yet, confronted with such badgering and varying quotations, we have been coerced into meeting some cases or losing our accounts, but in two only have we met an under-cost price.

We are glad the searchlight of investigation has been brought into play, and hope the Proprietary Articles Trade Association's suggestions may bring about some understanding between the various manufacturers.

Yours obediently,  
WATSON & WATES.

93 Leadenhall Street, E.C., June 27.

SIR,—With reference to Mr. Herbert Parsons's letter in your current issue we think his apprehensions as to the effect, on other makers, of the ridiculous prices he proposes to fix in future to all buyers are somewhat unfounded.

Homœopaths are usually credited with a superabundance of faith, but we doubt whether the retailer will be able to convince the least thoughtful purchasers of homœopathic medicines, most of which are beyond the reach of analysis, that the quality of those prepared under the conditions you have described is all that they could desire, however energetically the fact may be pressed upon them.

Yours faithfully,

E. GOULE & SON (LIMITED).

(JOHN M. WYBORN, Managing Director.)

59 Moorgate Street, London, E.C., June 27.

SIR,—I have been interested in the correspondence respecting the above in the last issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, which affords another example of the present demoralised and corrupt condition of the proprietary-medicine trade.

I fail, however, to understand the assertion made by Messrs. Ashton & Parsons in the last paragraph of their letter, to the effect that "the retailer, and not the public, has in all instances been the party benefited by the low prices, as we refuse to supply any house that undercuts the retail price."

I have stocked Messrs. Ashton & Parsons's tinctures and pills for some years, obtaining my supplies chiefly through Messrs. Barclay & Sons, at the usual price of 3s. per dozen, but have never heard of any arrangement for preventing cutting of the retail prices. On the contrary, I have it on



very good authority that Messrs. A. & P. actually supply some of the keenest cutters direct.

Perhaps some subtle distinction lies between the words "cutting" and "undercutting." Yours faithfully,  
F. GOLDBY.

SIR,—Like Mr. Bennet, I have made a similar discovery with regard to prices charged for homœopathic medicines, only I considered the source of information not worth my notice.

Messrs. Ashton & Parsons's representative appears to have been carrying around a list purporting to be a range of prices charged by Messrs. Watson & Wates. It may be that the enthusiastic representative has been adopting this method of canvassing for orders without the knowledge of his firm; at any rate, it is to be hoped so.

Even now I am not convinced that W. & W. conduct their business in such a manner, unless, perhaps, in cases where great pressure has been brought to bear, in consequence of the cutting quotations of A. & P.

My own belief is that A. & P. are the instigators of this extreme cutting. I base my opinions upon the prices offered to me as "strictly private" by circular-letter as far back as twelve months ago. I have to hand this morning a circular-letter, intimating that in future their "fixed" price will be 1s. 3d. per dozen—actually the price offered to me so far back. It will be difficult for retailers who have been paying prices as high as 5s. per dozen to Messrs. A. & P. to regard this "actually under cost" quotation with equanimity, especially if they hold heavy stocks.

It would have been preferable for the two firms to have agreed on a uniform rate; failing that, to have relied on the proved services of the P.A.T.A. Faithfully yours,

66 Old Hill Street, Clapton, N.E., WM. DUNCAN.  
June 28.

SIR,—Now that the drug-trade have had the matter of homœopathic prices brought so clearly before them, I hope they will see that it is not to their interests to allow any single firm by selling below cost to obtain a monopoly. My experience is even more to the point than that of "Disgusted." I was not an old customer of A & P., yet I have been continuously solicited to leave the firm I was dealing with, and, as I remained obstinate, the price was gradually reduced from 3s. (the figure at which it started) to 1s. 3d. per dozen. Yours faithfully,

ANTI-MONOPOLY. (28/6.)

#### Answers to Some Every-day Questions.

SIR,—Will you allow me to answer, to the best of my ability, some questions which are put to me, and I doubt not to many others, almost daily?

1. Do you think we can close up Grab'em All (Limited) or Thimblerrigger (Limited)?

Frankly I do not think so. Even if we succeeded in bringing them under the scope of the Pharmacy Act, we could only stop them from dealing in scheduled poisons, and such a limitation as this would not affect them to a very great extent. I have stated my views already in regard to this. Briefly they are as follows:—Get a clause added to the present Act, making it compulsory for all the directors and all the managers in a drug-store company to be qualified according to the Act; let this clause apply to all new companies, and give old companies five years to arrange for bringing themselves into line with the Act. If at the end of five years they cannot see their way to having all directors and managers qualified, then let them cease from dealing in scheduled poisons. I said some time ago that the enlargement of the scope of the Act in regard to poisons, &c., must come much later, and, in my opinion, the master mistake of the recent suggestions to the Lord Chancellor consisted in this—that they included suggestions for the enlargement of the scope of the Pharmacy Act in relation to restricted articles. Our first duty is the education of the public on this point. If we can get legislation in the near future which renders unqualified men amenable to the Act as it stands, we will do well if we can deal with the scope of the poisons schedules within the next decade.

2. What about the man who is financed by outsiders?

Nothing at all about him. The Pharmacy Act is quite silent upon the question of financing. A chemist may be

financed by friends, by mere investors or moneylenders, by one man or by twenty men. He may pay interest upon money advanced, or he may arrange otherwise. The Act makes no note of these things. He must not, however, have an unqualified partner in the business, and he must not join his name to that of an unqualified man in forming a firm. He must not even add Co. to his name unless Mr. Co. is qualified. The names which appear in connection with the business must be the names of qualified men, as no others may legally call themselves chemists. Of course, if a man were to add Co. to his name for business purposes only when it could not be proved that the Co. represented any person, or persons, the Act would not affect the Co. I may add, however, that in all these cases it is not the qualified man who is outside the law, but the unqualified man or men.

3. Are you really of opinion that drug-stores as they exist are inimical to the public interest?

Most emphatically I am of this opinion. These stores do not perform, and have never to any extent performed, the true function of pharmacy, which is that of being the handmaiden of medicine. It is the true function of pharmacy to administer medicines, under medical directions, in the interests of the public health. These men have made it their first care to press quack medicines upon the people, without medical supervision, with the result that the public health has been in many cases made the sufferer. We all know that drug-stores do not rely mainly upon dispensing; nor upon patent medicines upon which they have no profit, but upon their own put-up articles, which are puffed in wordy advertisements and sold to all comers. These stores have also been the direct cause of drugs being thrown upon the market at prices which are quite incompatible with quality. Medicines should only be administered when necessary, under medical supervision as far as possible, and when they are administered they should be of the best quality regardless of price. Drug-stores are also inimical to public interests, because it is utterly impossible to get men who are not properly trained to the duties of pharmacy to recognise the responsibility which rests upon them when they take the duties of pharmacy upon themselves.

4. Are you in favour of some form of registration for limited companies which will bring them under the control of the Pharmaceutical Society?

Well, now, that is a question to ask a decent Christian. Why, these companies wish for nothing better than this. It is the one thing they need to make them happy. How any body of chemists could ever think of such a thing is beyond my comprehension, and yet this appears to be the position of Edinburgh. Surely the chemists of Edinburgh do not tell me that, because a few superannuated gentlemen in the House of Lords meddle and muddle with matters about which they know just nothing at all, they are going to turn craven and throw away the sword. I wish some mighty voice would arise in the ranks of pharmacy which could shout loud enough for all to hear that they are to stand firm. Justice is not dead because one or two old men hold the opinion that to legislate against fraud interferes with commercial enterprise. However, I do not believe that Edinburgh does hold this opinion. Further explanation will most likely bring light. Edinburgh is said to be the home of pharmacy, and it is certain that some of the finest pharmacies and most skilled pharmacists in the world are to be found in Edinburgh. I would advise gentlemen in England to keep an eye on Edinburgh. I have a premonition that she will turn up in the fight somewhere not far from the front, and that her toes will not be pointed the wrong way.

5. Do you think there should be two grades of chemists—one qualified to deal in non-poisonous drugs, the other qualified to dispense all kinds of drugs?

No; such an arrangement would result in a most damaging flood of quackery. I have no hesitation in saying that the lowest grade would fare best in this arrangement, but it would result in a public evil.

Sir, I have answered these questions to the best of my ability, not because I consider myself better fitted to do so than any other man, but simply because these questions are being put all over the country almost daily, and I think somebody ought to answer them. I am always open to correction when I am wrong.

I would also add that chemists ought not to forget that



we are fighting more for posterity than for ourselves. The fight will undoubtedly be long and arduous, but we have honour, and justice, and right on our side. Sometimes it will be our duty to check adverse legislation, and at other times we must do what we can to advance suitable legislation, but, beyond all, we must keep the matter before the public. Public investigation will all tell in our favour.

Dumfries, June 26.

JAMES REID.

#### The Chemists' Assistants' Association.

SIR,—May I congratulate your expert balance-sheet distortionist on the very able way in which he keeps just his side of the line marked "Libel" when criticising such documents? Your sympathetic article on the C.A.A. is overwhelming in its generosity. I maintain that the *bonâ fide* income last year was 69l. 18s., inasmuch as the patrons and donors contribute to the Association with a full knowledge of its scope, both social and educational, and of the difficulty of carrying on its large amount of work without other support than that of *bonâ fide* members.

A detailed balance-sheet has been published every year for the information of patrons and donors, who will, I should think, hardly thank you for your pains in casting a slur on their intelligence, whilst also imputing an ungenerous motive.

By an extension of your argument it would appear that the *bonâ fide* income derived from THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is the amount paid by *bonâ fide* subscribers to that journal—a sum perhaps insufficient to provide the printers' ink you sling with so little regard for the white robe of Justitia. The effect of your article will probably not be immediate. On the withdrawal of donations and the resignation of patrons the Association will probably discontinue the annual rennion and cease to publish its proceedings. The number of scientific meetings may have to be reduced to save rent, but, before each, the wild orgies surrounding biscuits and coffee will continue—not for the delectation of unsatiated appetites, but as a pleasant accompaniment to our welcome of friends, new and old.

Yours faithfully,

F. W. GAMBLE, President.

73 Newman Street, London, W.C., June 27.

#### Pharmacists.

SIR,—Have you any use for wisdom of the subjoined character?—

When a man has nearly forgotten all his chemistry he is beginning to know how to make a living.

While pharmacists and doctors disagree about a little prescribing the patent-medicine men gain great riches.

The qualified man who gets no prescriptions to dispense thinks he owed himself a grudge when he entered the business.

Pharmacists and patent-medicine men both study the B.P.; with the latter it is the British public.

As a rule chemists do not become millionaires, but no law prevents an M.P.S. becoming one if he can, and proving the exception.

Bloomsbury Square hatches many a brood of pharmaceutical chickens—and leaves them to scratch for a living as best they can.

When a man gets ploughed the bitter taste of failure often acts as a mental tonic and makes success the sweeter.

The foolish man learns the drug-trade and gets qualified but the wise man forms a company and runs many drug-stores, where the foolish man does the work.

New York. THE MAN FROM LONDON. (39/21)

#### Dispensing Notes.

This section is intended for the elucidation of dispensing difficulties. Subscribers and their employes may contribute to it, criticising any of the following notes or contributing notes on prescriptions which they have found to be of real interest.

#### "A Bad Lotion"

SIR,—The example given under the above heading is very interesting from a dispensing point of view. As you remark,

tragacanth cannot be used on account of its incompatibility with the solution of lead oxyacetate, soft soap is inadmissible for a similar reason, while quillaia might set up irritation. If, however, gelatin is substituted for the tragacanth, a satisfactory emulsion can be made:—

Ol. cadini	...	...	...	4 parts
Liq. plumbi fort.	...	...	...	3 parts
Gelatin.	...	...	...	1½ part
Glycerin.	...	...	...	5 parts
Aq.	...	...	...	97 parts

Soak the gelatin in 20 of the water, dissolve by gentle heat, add the glycerin, and 3 or 4 drops of liquor potassæ to neutralise the acids in the tar. Add the oil of cade by degrees, stirring constantly, and dilute with 30 of the water. Finally, add the liq. plumbi, diluted with the remainder of the water.

E. W. L. (43/15)

[A specimen sent by "E. W. L." is a perfect emulsion, and his suggestions seem the best way of overcoming the difficulty.]

SIR,—I find a presentable emulsion may be made by omitting the tragacanth and substituting fresh milk for the water and mixing thus:—

Rub up the ol. cadini with the glycerin till perfectly smooth, then add gradually, with constant stirring, the milk, to which the liq. plumbi has been previously added. The oil partially separates on standing, but on shaking is immediately equally diffused. Of course, prepared thus, it would be necessary to dispense it in small quantities.

Dublin, June 19.

H. O'C. (40/46.)

Auld Reekie's (40/21) advice is to get the doctor's sanction to omit gum and water, using glycerin to make correct volume. Mix ol. cadini with glycerin by shaking vigorously in bottle; add liq. plumbi subacet, and shake again. This makes a nice lotion, which scarcely separates after twelve hours. Four parts of gum myrrh (residue from tincture) makes a fair emulsion, but it is granular, and separates an aqueous layer. It might pass with a "shake," but is hardly elegant pharmacy.

#### Legal Queries.

We do not give legal opinions by post. Information regarding most legal matters in connection with pharmacy will be found in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, and in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," and Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty."

33/5. *Spes.*—We think a Court would enforce an agreement entered into by a manager with a company not to start business himself within three miles of any of their shops, particularly if a limited period were specified. It would not be a prudent agreement for the manager to sign, and if he should sign it he ought to be particularly careful that it is not so expressed as to extend to all future shops which the company might open.

33/62. *Devo.*—We do not find it compatible with our self-respect to assist you in inflicting vengeance on a tradesman who has offended you by insisting on payment of his just claim.

34/65. *B. P.*—On the death of a chemist the executors are the persons who carry on the business, and to be exact the poison-labels should bear the name of "The executors of the late —," with the address. But it does not appear to be essential that this should be done. Many prominent pharmacists, including Mr. Carteighe and Mr. Hills, both ex-Presidents of the Pharmaceutical Society, retain their old-firm names, which are different from their own, and there is no reason why executors should not similarly continue to use the name of the deceased chemist whose business they are carrying on.

40/36. *Pot. Chlor.*—The landlord having given six months' notice does not entitle the tenant to leave and cease to pay rent before the expiration of that term. The gas-brackets were probably included in the shop-fittings. If so,



the tenant having bought them may take them away; but this may not have been the case.

38/42. *Lancs.*—The most proper receipt to take in respect of a promissory note payable by instalments is one on the back of the note itself for each payment, same being notice to all subsequent holders. Since the Finance Act, 1895, this receipt must have a penny stamp, although the stamp was previously unnecessary. Unless the note is produced at the time of payment, the person paying the instalment does not know that he is paying the actual holder. A stamped receipt on a separate piece of paper is a good discharge for the instalment, but it is preferable for the reason stated to have it on the note itself.

178/40 (*Beacon*) and 7/22 (*Storax*).—See recent answers on the same subjects.

40/44. *Ignoramus.*—The legality of the addition of boric acid to milk and other foods is at present doubtful. There have been many Magistrates' decisions both ways. Read cases reported in our issues of January 21 last (page 101) and March 11 (page 423), and a letter from Mr. A. J. de Hailes, F.I.C., March 18 (page 469), and you will at least realise how impossible it is for us to give you a definite answer.

39/33. *Mac.*—You can trade as a manufacturing company under any name you like, so long as you do not take an unfair advantage of someone else.

36/69. *Mizpah.*—The report headed "Petroleum in Paint," on page 960, *C. & D.*, June 17, 1899, will show you how the law would be interpreted in your case. A varnish containing benzine, or any other form of petroleum, if it gives off inflammable vapour at 73° F., is regarded as petroleum within the meaning of the Act, and can only be prepared, kept, bottled, or sold by persons having a petroleum licence.

40/72. *Semper Eadem.*—It is generally agreed that the custom of the trade among chemists is to give to or receive a month's notice from their assistants. A County Court Judge would perhaps require evidence of this custom, and you would have to be prepared to tender it by getting one or two experienced men in the trade to come as witnesses. The intervals of payment of salary are not a consideration.

46/62. *J. K.*—If the widow is not executrix under the will she is not entitled to carry on the business of her deceased husband. The other executors, however, could do so on her behalf, with the aid of a qualified assistant.

46/47. *Sfax.*—If you have agreed to give your assistant a holiday, it would be generally understood that you pay his salary for the time that he is absent. That is certainly the usual practice; but it is quite open to you to make other arrangements.

46/46. *Staffa.*—In the absence of a specific agreement, you are not bound to give your assistant a holiday. If you do consent to his having one, you can make whatever terms you like about the payment of a substitute.

47/15. *External.*—It is not legal for you to keep or sell tincture of myrrh made with methylated spirit, no matter for what purpose. Not holding a spirit licence, it would be illegal for you to purchase a bottle of spirit and sell it again to your customer for his convenience, and not for the sake of gain.

42/47. *Egdon.*—We do not think your envelope renders either of the preparations liable to medicine-stamp duty, but to be quite sure you had better send copies to the Secretary, Board of Inland Revenue, Somerset House, for his opinion.

42/35. *East Anglia.*—We do not think it would be safe for you to use your old labels and handbills when your business has been converted into a limited company, unless you stamp them with the word "limited." See answer to "Suffolk," *C. & D.*, June 10, page 938.

40/16. *Carlos.*—To change the name of a registered company a special resolution must be passed, confirmed, and

registered, and then the sanction of the Board of Trade must be obtained, and subsequently a certificate of registration of the new name as authorised by the Board must be obtained. This certificate is furnished by the Registrar of Joint-stock Companies, Somerset House. Write to him for particulars of the fees.

48/32. *W. H.*—You can only protect a new idea by patenting it. The registration of a trade-mark only protects a name.

### Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We reply to subscribers and their employes only upon subjects of interest to other readers generally. When more than one query is sent write each on a separate piece of paper. When a sample accompanies a query full particulars regarding the origin and use of the sample must be given, and it must be distinctly labelled. Queries are not replied to by post, and those sent anonymously are disregarded.

Pocock's Non-excisable Beers.—We have had a good many inquiries recently regarding the little work recommended in "Pharmaceutical Formulas" entitled "The Brewing of Non-excisable Beers," written by Mr. John Pocock, of Bangor. We have now ascertained that the author is dead, but his widow, who resides at Huish, Yeovil, sells the book.

37/20. *Cologne.*—*Gelanthum.*—See *C. & D.*, October 1, 1898, page 562.

38/73. *Berwol.*—In the formula you mention 45-per-cent. alcohol should read 90-per-cent.

186/4. *G. G.*—Flower-fertiliser for pot-plants.—See *C. & D.*, February 26, 1898, page 375.

45/67. *Vernet.*—Veterinary Maggot-oil.—The formula referred to is the following:—

Corrosive sublimate...	...	...	3i.
Methylated spirit ...	...	...	3viij.
Spirit of tar ...	...	...	3x.
Powdered quillaia ...	...	...	3ij.
Water to ...	...	...	Cong. j.

Powder the corrosive sublimate and shake in the methylated spirit until dissolved; then add the quillaia and a pint of water. Macerate overnight, and add the spirit of tar and the rest of the water; occasionally shake well for a day or two, and strain. To prevent the fly striking, and for maggots, mix two tablespoonfuls with a winebottleful of cold water.

42/50. *P. C. C.*—"Diseases and Remedies" (office of the *C. & D.*, 2s. 6d.) is the best guide for prescribing purposes we know of. Squire's "Pharmacopœias of the London Hospitals" is also useful on account of the number of standard formulas it contains.

31/14. *Wines.*—Bismarck brown is soluble in water or spirit. This and the other information you ask for could have been decided after a few minutes' experiment.

30/15. *W. N.*—The aniline butter-colouring, a recipe for which is given in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," is now more popular and more easily made than those in which annatto is used.

39/33. *Mac.*—Leeming's Essence:—

Cantharides ...	...	...	3viij.
Camphor ...	...	...	3ij.
Euphorbium ...	...	...	3viij.
Oil of origanum ...	...	...	3j.
Castile soap ...	...	...	3ij.
Spirit ...	...	...	Ovj.

Digest for fourteen days, and filter.

39/39 (*J. C.*) and 41/72 (*J. J.*).—Water-softener.—A mixture of slaked lime (1) and dried carbonate of soda (2) is a good powder to put up for this purpose. Carbonate of soda (the so-called "crystal carbonate"), scented, is also good.



The directions for use order a teaspoonful to be well stirred into each gallon of water, and the precipitate allowed to subside.

36/66. *Tom-tit*—Making Lime-water.—The best method of doing this was described in the 1898 DIARY, page 502. Proctor's method of testing lime-water is the simplest, and should be frequently resorted to on account of the rapid deterioration of the article. There are several simple stills made for distilling water. You will find references to them in the Buyers' Guide in the DIARY.

### Information Wanted.

*The Editor will be obliged for replies to the following from any who can furnish the information.*

40/39. Address of makers of Sierhoot chutney, "Anna" brand.

43/58. Address of makers of Balmain's luminous paint.

49/24. Name and address of Messrs. Osmond & Sons, makers of cattle-oils, &c., late of 18 Jewry Street, E.C.

## Spectacle-makers' Company.

AT the June examination 126 candidates were examined, and of these 48 passed. The following are the chemists whose names appear among the successful candidates:—

Barfoot, J. R., Chesterfield  
Bingham, F., Rotherham  
Curtis, G., Chiswick  
Dawson, H. G. W., Derby  
Everett, W. E., Colchester  
Jelley, G. W., Coventry  
Legg, J. A., Hammersmith  
McIntyre, W., Bolton

Ridley, A., Tenterden  
Selfe, H. M., East Dulwich  
Stainer, J. W., Folkestone  
Stavert, W., Selkirk  
Tocher, R., Maybole, N.B.  
Tree, F., St. Leonards-on-Sea  
Vogt, G., Kendal  
Wallbridge, J. G., St. Helens

The proportion of failures is larger than it has hitherto been, the failures being chiefly in practical work. The proportion of chemists among the successful candidates has increased. This time out of the 48 successes 16 were chemists; in March, 11 of the 66 candidates who passed were chemists; and at the first examination held by the Company, 12 out of 62 successful candidates were chemists.

A chemist who was one of the successful candidates sends us the following experiences, which we give, as the examination has been somewhat altered in character since we described it in our issue of November 5, 1898:—

Competition and the desire to open out all legitimate and possible sources of income first led me to think seriously of supplying the public with aids to distinct vision.

An adequate knowledge of methods for intelligently recognising and correcting cases of errors of refraction, and distinguishing these from cases requiring the advice of an oculist, was felt to be the first desideratum, and, thanks to the recent action of the Spectacle-makers' Company, the acquisition of such necessary knowledge has now become easily attainable.

I placed myself in the hands of an instructor whose advertisement I saw in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and by correspondence extending over nearly three months, and personal tuition for a fortnight before the examination, prepared myself for the Spectacle-makers' Company's examination.

The examination in visual optics comprises a written paper extending over three hours and an oral examination, the length of which necessarily varies.

The written examination was held on June 6 at the Northampton Institute, from 7 to 10 P.M., and the questions given have already been published in the *C. & D.*

I am told that half the questions were set by Professor Silvanus Thompson, and the remaining half by Mr. Lindsay Johnson, and this possibly explains why our answers had to be fastened up into two separate lots before handing in at the finish. The questions I found presented no great difficulty.

The examination did not commence quite punctually,

and by some oversight the numbers of candidates which were to be affixed to the papers had in many cases not been supplied, and so had to be given individually during the progress of the examination. With longer experience, I presume, these little details will right themselves.

The lack of punctuality in the oral examination was even more prominent. Half an hour, an hour, and I believe longer still, beyond the appointed hour, seemed to be common experiences, which, however, I am told, was chiefly due to the absence of one of the examiners who was attending as an expert in a legal case.

In filling up the application form for examination you are asked the length of time you have been in the business. Seeing that my connection with it only dated from this present year, my card-record on this score was not impressive. I did not, however, find this fact prejudice me in the least with the examiners.

My first card went to Mr. Paxton. I was shown a collection of pince-nez and asked to name various patterns, to pick out those suitable for astigmatic cases, to give my opinion on the common folder and state objections to its use, also my opinion on the value of two gold and some steel frames. Then I had to measure up a frame given to me, and finally to measure my examiner for a frame for distance-glasses.

I then passed on Mr. Dixey. I was asked what features of a lens made by a grinder to a prescription order I would be careful to verify before supplying to my customer. I was then shown two lenses, and asked to determine whether correctly centred or not. Finally I had to analyse and neutralise a lens, in a spectacle-frame and determine the position of the cylindrical element.

Card number three was received by Mr. L. Johnson who questioned me on the subject of visual acuity, the meaning of the technical terms employed in recording it, the scientific significance of the tests used in determining it, and the anatomical conditions involved. Is there and why is there a limit to microscopic vision? How would you detect a person "shamming" blindness?

Professor Thompson was not present when I had got thus far, so Mr. Johnson received my fourth card and proceeded to examine me further. I was thoroughly overhauled on concave lenses, especially the various methods for determining their focal lengths and the practical values of the various methods.

This concluded my experience of the examination, and apart from the ros' a'ie tinge which success gives to memory I may say that my relations with both examiners and officials of the Spectacle-makers' Company were of a very pleasant character.

MR. W. H. FASSETT (Fassett & Johnson) has returned from his holiday at Albany, N.Y.

THE Holborn Union has resolved that, "in view of the satisfactory manner in which Mr. Charles H. Fryer, dispenser at the Infirmary, discharges his duties, his salary be increased from 120*l.* to 130*l.* per annum."

**SPONGES AND THE SPONGE-TRADE**—The leading article in this month's *Knowledge* is written by Mr. R. Lydekker, and is on sponges. He tells in an interesting way what sponges are, where they are found and how obtained, the methods of preparing them for use, and some particulars are given about the progress of the trade during recent years. The article appears to be based largely upon information obtained from Messrs. Cresswell Brothers & Schmitz, who also lent the author typical specimens of sponges, excellent photographs of which are reproduced in the article.

MR. T. HAWKSLEY, 357 Oxford Street, W., has published a third edition of his "Catalogue of Otacoustical Instruments." The little book is more than a catalogue, because the first twenty pages of it and the last six are taken up by useful notes on the ear, hearing, and hints on how to improve the hearing of the deaf. These are followed by about forty pages on various otacoustical instruments, systematically arranged in eleven classes, according to the nature of the instruments and their power in relieving deafness. Many deaf people want to know of just such a book as this, and chemists who are called upon to supply otacoustical instruments should make a note of it for reference.



## Trade Report.

The prices quoted below are the bottom prices obtained for bulk quantities by importers and manufacturers, who do not supply retailers. They are in many cases exclusive of various charges.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: June 29.

THIS has been a quiet week, because wholesalers are stocktaking and are not prepared to enter into fresh contracts. A few articles, however, such as citric and tartaric acids and cream of tartar, have met with increased inquiry due to the prolonged spell of hot weather. The news from Smyrna reporting a reduced estimate of the new opium-crop has hardened this market, and fully a hundred cases have changed hands this week at higher rates; morphine has followed the advance. The asafetida-auctions of June 23 were somewhat farcical, as the insurance assessors had placed ridiculously high limits on many parcels, but what sold brought full prices. The following are the more important changes:—

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Cream of tartar	Asafetida	Ammonia	Camphor (refined)
Colocynth	Barium	sulphate	Deer-tongue
Lemon-juice (conc.)	chloride	Golden seal	leaves
Morphine	Canary-seed	Shellac	Ginger (Jam.)
Oil, lemon	Oil, cassia	(Button)	Oil, turpentine
Oil, orange	Oil, castor	Wax (Japan)	
Opium	Vanilla		
Shellac (sec. Orange)			

The following are among the arrivals of drugs from June 23 to 28 inclusive:—Benzoin, 5; cardamoms, 40; cascara sagrada, 390; castor oil (E.I.), 10; (Ital.), 10; (Fr.), 45; (Ital.), 43; cinchona, 191; cocaine (crude), 5; dragon's-blood, 6; eucalyptus oil, 1; fennugreek, 616; guarana, 3; honey, 49; (Chil.) 95; gum olibanum, 268; ipecacuanha (Rio), 33; juniper-berries, 300; manna, 2; nux vomica, 328; oil, anise, star, 20; opium, 5; orris, 7; quicksilver, 100; quinine, 93; rhatany, 10; saffron, 1; sandalwood, 518; sarsaparilla, 5; scammony-root, 65; senna (Tiny.) 85; squills, 10; tamarinds (W.I.), 297; tonka-beans, 4; vanilla, 100; wax, bees', 365.

### Carbide of Calcium.

A General Order has been issued by the Board of Customs directing that carbide of calcium be added to the official import and export lists. The Board also draw the attention of importers, exporters, and their agents to the requirement, which is at once to come into force, that in preparing their documents carbide of calcium must be specifically entered, and the weight in hundredweights and value stated.

### Java Government Cinchona.

The quarterly report on the Government cinchona-plantations in Java for the three months ending March 31, 1899, has just been published. It is somewhat less satisfactory than the last one, mainly owing to the fact that the rainfall has been more than 50 per cent. below the average; this was particularly the case in the Bandung district, where the average of March equals 14 per cent. of the total rainfall for the year, but in March, 1899, it only reached 4 per cent. In March damage was done by heavy gales, and also by insects, but several plantations usually affected by insects escaped, owing to the method adopted of regularly burying the fallen leaves. The expense of increased labour has as yet prevented a general adoption of this plan; but with the experience now gained, it will no doubt be largely extended in future. The harvesting of bark commenced as early as January—earlier than in previous years—as some plantations

had been left over in 1898, so as to keep down the production of that year. The number of plants in the nurseries was 1,580,000 (1,240,000 *Ledgeriana*, 315,000 *Succirubra*, and 25,000 hybrids), and in the plantations 2,602,300, of which 1,616,000 were *Ledgeriana*, 494,000 hybrids, 444,300 *Succirubra*, and 48,000 *Officinalis*.

### Cablegrams.

HAMBURG, June 29, 12.3 P.M.:—Refined camphor is now selling in second hands at 330m. per 100 kilos. Quinine is quite neglected, and turpentine is also much quieter at 66m. per 100 kilos.

\* \* \*

BERGEN, June 29, 11.35 A.M.:—The Finmarken cod-fishing has now closed, and the catch since my last brings the total for the season at all fisheries in Norway up to 34,042,000 fish, against 38,453,000 last year. The fatter natures of the livers this year has compensated for the deficiency in numbers, for the yield of crude oil has been 29,486 barrels (25 gals. each) against 22,855 last year. The market is dull, and the price of refined medicinal oil has declined to 55s. per barrel f.o.b. this port.

\* \* \*

NEW YORK, June 29, 3.27 P.M.:—Fair business is being done. Opium is now \$3 to \$3.10 per lb., and is still advancing. Jalap is firmer, 11c. per lb. being now the price. Camphor at 45c. per lb., hydrastis-root 45c., ipecacuanha at \$3.90, serpentina-root at 27c., and Mexican sarsaparilla at 9c. are all easier. Cinchonidia is still firm at 30c. to 33c. per oz., and new podophyllin-root remains at 3½c. per lb.

\* \* \*

SMYRNA, June 28, 4.20 P.M.:—Opium is advancing in price, in consequence of interested holders buying old crop to sustain values. As much as 8s. 5d. per lb., f.o.b., has been paid for old current tale quale, and the sales amount to some 30 cases. The new crop is now estimated at 6,000 cases.

### The Tea-market.

The sanguine spirits who a few months since were predicting, and prepared to bet, that there would be no tea of any sort except Oolong under 8d. on the market by the month of June have realised once again the un wisdom of prophesying unless you know. It was inevitable that, with common tea at 8d. in April, production would be pushed forward on the other side as rapidly as possible, and with advices in London of heavy shipments of the new crop from India—far in excess of the same date last year—and the certainty that such shipments would be largely composed of common tea the market has throughout June been dropping steadily week by week. Last Monday, for example, commonest U.S. leaf Assam—very bad stuff—sold at 6d., and fair common-leaf tea at 6½d., while there is plenty of useful common to fair broken Assam and Assam Pekoe selling from 6¼d. to 7¼d. Finer grades of Indian tea are getting very scarce, and will be scarcer before the market gets any fine tea of the new crop. Ceylons have fallen steadily week by week with Indians, and are quoted at about same values, the quality having fallen off, and the great bulk of the sales consisting of very undesirable tea.

### Heavy Chemicals.

[These prices are for market-centres other than London]

The position of the main products of the heavy-chemical market at the principal centres remains practically unchanged. Business all round is very fair, and is passing at steadily maintained values. Bleaching-powder continues to be in good request both for home and export. Caustic soda unchanged, and for saltcake an increased inquiry is to be noted. In the tar-products market a better feeling is apparent, and benzols are steadier and carbolic firmer. Sulphate of ammonia easy, but a rather heavier inquiry is to be noted.

ALUMINA PRODUCTS.—General demand is good, and prices remain for the most part unchanged. Best makes of pure sulphate of alumina, 78s. 9d. to 83s. 9d. on rails in usual casks, and usual allowances for bags or loose slabs. Crystal alum in increased demand: loose lump, 4l. 12s. 6d. to 4l. 15s.; lump in tierces, 4l. 17s. 6d. to 5l.; and ground, 5l. 5s. to 5l. 10s. Alumina ferric in steady inquiry at 42s. 6d. to 45s. per ton. Aluminous cake, 45s. to 50s. per ton. Bauxite, 60 per cent. alumina, 16s. 6d., f.o.b. Hydrate of alumina, high strength, 11l. 15s. so 12l. 5s. in casks. Carbonate of alumina quiet, at 35s. to 37s. 6d. per cwt. Aluminate of soda, highest strength Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 37s. 6d. to 38s. 6d. per cwt.



**BARIUM PRODUCTS.**—Moving steadily, and prices are firm. Blanc fixe, precipitated sulphate of barium, in paste, 6*l.* 15*s.*, f.o.r. Chloride of barium, best refined crystals, firmer, at 6*l.* 15*s.*, on rails in bags, and 6*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, f.o.b. Sulphide of barium very firm, 5*l.* 10*s.* in casks. Hydrate of baryta, purest crystals, 12*l.* to 13*l.* per ton.

### German Market.

*Hamburg, June 27.*

Business on our drug-market has not much improved since last week, and there are few changes to be reported.

**ALOES (CAPE)** is firm at 53*m.* to 54*m.* per 100 kilos.

**STAR-ANISE** is quiet and lower at 185*m.* per 100 kilos.

**CAMPHOR (REFINED)** is quiet. The refiners have reduced their prices to 355*m.* per 100 kilos., but secondhand holders continue to sell as before at 335*m.* to 330*m.* per 100 kilos.

**CASCARA SAGRADA** is unchanged and firm at 70*m.* per 100 kilos.

**CONDURANGO BARK** is firm at 75*m.* per 100 kilos.

**ERGOT OF RYE** is quiet but firm, good quality being held at 250*m.* per 100 kilos.

**MENTHOL.**—Firm at 15½*m.* per kilo.

**QUININE** is still neglected; secondhand sells at 44*m.* per kilo.

**WAX (JAPANESE)** steady at 58*m.* per 100 kilos.

**CASTOR OIL** is tending higher; first-pressing in barrels, at 51*m.* per 100 kilos.

**COD-LIVER OIL** unchanged.

**PEPPERMINT OIL (JAPAN)** is firmer at 7*m.* per kilo., and **HGH** is quoted at 465*m.* per lb.

Arrivals of drugs at Hamburg from June 23 to 28 include:—Cardamoms, 4; eucalyptus oil, 7; glycerin, 140; musk, 5; castor oil, 190; Calabar beans, 3; beeswax, 501; jalap, 35; sarsaparilla, 50, (Mexican) 28; Jamaica camphor, 67; camphor oil, 500; cassia oil, 15; Japanese wax, 200; iodine 216; cascarrilla, 13; coca-leaves, 258.

### London Markets.

**ACID, CITRIC.**—There has been a fair amount of business put through this week at 1*s.* 7*d.* per lb. in second hands. Powder is almost unobtainable for prompt delivery at 1*s.* 8*d.* Buyers in the provinces, who have been holding back in the expectation of lower prices, have had to make purchases at the higher figures, and this has caused a certain amount of activity this week. Concentrated juice has been advanced to 22*l.* per pipe, c. and f.

Our Messina correspondent writes on June 20 that, since his last advices on June 1, there has been a brisk demand for citrate of lime and concentrated lemon-juice, the latter at 21*l.* per pipe, c. and f. terms. It is rumoured in Messina that there are still many foreign manufacturers whose wants are still uncovered, and if this should be so, it is likely that there will be a further upward movement. The stock in Sicily is still considerable, but it is principally in the hands of one holder.

**ACID, TANNIC.**—Recent high prices of galls still have their effect upon this product, and Schering's make is quoted 1*s.* 9½*d.* per lb. in contract quantities and paper packing.

**ACID, TARTARIC.**—A good business has been done throughout the week at unaltered prices, foreign crystals selling at 1*s.* to 1*s.* 0½*d.* and English at 1*s.* 1*d.* per lb.

**ARROWROOT.**—Quiet; the St. Vincent's offered at auction last Wednesday was bought in.

**ASAFETIDA.**—At auction on June 23, 438 cases were offered with all faults, and some 85 cases were disposed of at or immediately after the auction. The bulk sold at full to firmer rates, while a little realised about 50 per cent. higher rates than the figures originally paid on importation. The following were some of the prices obtained:—Fine soft pinky block, 60*s.* per cwt. (for which about 80*s.* was paid previous to the fire); soft pinky, but much mixed with sand, 55*s.*; good pale almondy, 59*s.* to 61*s.*; good almondy block, part pinky, 55*s.*; fair darkish almondy, but very stony and heavy, 38*s.* to 40*s.*; grey broken block, some few loose almonds, part very heavy, 40*s.*; ordinary sandy block, slightly pinky and softish, but very heavy, 27*s.* to 37*s.* The lowest price paid was 25*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. for dark broken and heavy block, but mixed with some gum. Several lots of very common stuff were taken out at limits about double their value, to the disappointment of a few buyers who had expected bargains. Privately there has been a fair demand at firm prices for anything good.

**BALSAM TOLU.**—Easier, there being offers at a shade less than last sale-rates—1*s.* 4*d.* per lb. in 10-lb. tins.

**BELLADONNA-ROOT.**—For true root 40*s.* per cwt., c.i.f., is wanted on this market.

**BENZON.**—There have been a few small sales of fair Sumatra seconds since the auctions at 7*l.* 5*s.* per cwt. and upwards. About 100 cases have arrived this week, consisting mostly of Sumatra seconds of good quality.

**CAMPHOR.**—Quotations from China for crude are again dearer, but there is complete inactivity here at the moment. Importers quote 125*s.* per cwt., c.i.f., for Chinese, and 135*s.* for Japanese. On Monday German refiners reduced their quotations for ton lots by ¾*d.* per lb.—now 1*s.* 7½*d.*; the English refiners do not contemplate lowering their prices.

**CANTHARIDES.**—Russian flies are quoted on the spot at 1*s.* 7½*d.* per lb.

**COLOCYNTH** has been dearer within the last day or two, a few lots having sold at over 1*s.* per lb.; 1*s.* 3*d.* is now wanted.

**COPPER SULPHATE** is unchanged at 24*l.* 15*s.* for ordinary brands, Anchor 27*l.*, and Liverpool 25*l.* 10*s.* to 26*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

A short time ago a joint-stock company was formed in Padua, with a capital of 400,000 lire, for the establishment of a copper-sulphate manufactory. It is said that it will start working in the course of the year.

**CREAM OF TARTAR.**—Going well, at firm to dearer prices. For 95-per-cent. powder, 77*s.* per cwt. is asked; and for first white powder, 92 per cent., 75*s.*, and crystals 73*s.* to 74*s.* per cwt. High tests are getting scarce, and dearer rates are looked for; 98 per cent. powder is 78*s.* to 79*s.*.

**DANDELION.**—Cut root (German) is quoted 37*s.* to 37*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., c.i.f., and ordinary at 34*s.* 6*d.*

**DEER-TONGUE LEAVES** are a shade lower, new crop being offered for July-August delivery at 3½*c.* to 3¾*c.* per lb., f.o.b. Baltimore.

**GLYCERIN** still remains in an anomalous condition, crude being firm and dear, and refined proportionately much cheaper. This is owing to many small soap-makers having begun to refine the product instead of selling the crude article, and they find it difficult to get a market for their comparatively unknown brands, which, indeed, in some cases are not above suspicion. Buyers should, therefore, ensure that cheap offers carry with them a guarantee of B.P. purity. The best German brands are 50*s.* per cwt., and English 48*s.*

**GOLDEN SEAL.**—Spring-duz root is quoted at 2*s.* 2½*d.* per lb., c.i.f., which is slightly lower.

**GUM ARABIC.**—A small business has been done in Persian insoluble gum, at 19*s.* to 19*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. for fair sorts.

**GUM TRAGACANTH.**—There are no changes to report, business continuing at the last quoted rates. Hog of second quality has sold at 55*s.* per cwt.

**GUMS, VARNISH.**—The sales in auction to-day were lifeless, the only animation being shown in Animi. The offerings were not large, 4,592 packages of all kinds being the total. Of these 551 packages sold. Animi sold well at firmer rates, but Copal and Kauri were steady and in no great demand. The following are some of the prices:—

**ANIMI.**—Good bold strong Zanzibar sorts, 13*l.* to 13*l.* 10*s.* per cwt.; good pale to amber, 12*l.* 10*s.*; ambery to red, 10*l.* 15*s.*; weaker ditto, 9*l.* 15*s.* to 9*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; pale mixed with red, 9*l.* to 9*l.* 5*s.*; good pale mixed with weak, 8*l.* 15*s.*; yellow to dark bold, 8*l.* 10*s.*; good strong brown sorts, 7*l.* 5*s.*; fine pale chips, 6*l.* 15*s.* to 6*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; pale to reddish, 6*l.* 5*s.* to 6*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; fair dark sorts, 5*l.*; yellowish to red and ambery, 70*s.* to 75*s.*; small, 44*s.* to 50*s.*; dark and woody, 14*s.* to 20*s.* For fine pale round Copal character 92*s.* 6*d.* was refused, the lot being bought in at 5*l.*; a darker lot of the same kind sold at 47*s.* 6*d.* One case of fair bright Madagascar sold at 5*l.* 10*s.*

**COPAL.**—Very little sold. Good bold ambery Singapore realised 48*s.* to 52*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; ditto mixed with small pieces, 35*s.*; fair pale to ambery, 40*s.* Six bags of fine bold pale to dark Brazilian sold with good competition at 75*s.*; some poor rough sorts of the same shipment at 45*s.*, and dust, 7*s.* 9*d.* to 8*s.* 9*d.*

**DAMAR.**—Only five cases out of 623 were disposed of. These were greenish to yellow West Indian sorts, 37*s.*, and darker sorts 22*s.* Some fine pale hard Batavian was limited at 64*s.*

**GRASS-TREE GUM.**—The limit for fine bright sorts is 7*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. Some darker varieties were bought in at 6*s.* 6*d.*



**KAURI.**—Fine pale selected, 13*l.* 15*s.* per cwt.; ambéry ditto, 11*l.*; darker, 8*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; good pale chopped, 7*l.* 5*s.* Three-quarter scraped, 9*l.* 7*s.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; better sorts were bought in at 5*l.* 5*s.*, and half-scraped at 7*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* Brown, fine bold, sold at 5*l.* 5*s.*; smaller and darker, 90*s.*; small, coated, 72*s.* 6*d.*; fair chips, 47*s.* 6*d.*; pale dust, 27*s.*; coated chips, 16*s.*; chippy dust, 2*s.* 6*d.* Fine pale to amber Bush, 6*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* to 7*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; ambéry to brown, 95*s.*; yellow to dark brown, 85*s.*; pale chips (fine), 89*s.*; mixed ditto, 42*s.*; dark pickings, 29*s.*; dust, 22*s.*

**OLIBANUM.**—One broker offered 29 packages, but no effort was made to purchase, and the lot was bought in.

**SANDARAC.**—Fair pale to yellow Australian was limited at 30*s.* per cwt.

**IPECACUANHA.**—Cheaper. The arrivals last week appear to have caused some uneasiness in the market, and, as a consequence, buyers who have orders have abstained from purchasing this week. The market is none the less firm, however, 17*s.* per lb. being asked for Rio; while Cartagena is as last week.

Telegrams received in Rio *viâ* Monte Video from the Matto Grosso district continue to be alarming. The opponents of the State Government are still under arms, and new scenes of bloodshed are expected.

In discussing the market position of this drug, the *N. Y. Commercial* remarks that "the Cartagena article is very inferior and only in demand when the Brazilian is unusually costly, as at present. Ipecac. is nominally not admitted into this country unless it comes up to a certain test. Cartagena ipecac. almost always fails on the test, but recently considerable quantities have slipped past the Custom House inspectors, not so much at this port as at others, where the inspection is less strict." This statement about the U.S. Customs having a certain test for ipecac. is, we should think, an error. Cartagena ipecac. is as rich in total alkaloid as Rio, and as cephaeline, the stronger emetic principle, has been discovered since the U.S. Pharmacopoeia was published, we do not see what test can be applied.

**JABORANDI-LEAVES** are quoted 3*d.* to 6*d.* per lb. in Liverpool, but there is no inquiry.

**LIME-JUICE.**—A fair business has been done in this article. Raw West Indian, which was selling at 1*s.* 6*d.* per gallon, is not now obtainable under 1*s.* 8*d.* Lemon juice (natural) is also in a firmer position, 1*s.* 3*d.* having been paid.

**MANDRAKE-ROOT.**—The New York market is easier owing to a good prospective yield of new crop, which is offered to arrive at 3½*c.* Old is obtainable at 4*c.* to 4½*c.*, the latter for prime fall dug.

**MENTHOL.**—No demand here. Japanese cables quote dearer rates, but they are not entertained here. The same applies to peppermint oil.

**MORPHINE.**—Owing to the firmness of the opium-market, and the cable news from Smyrna received in London yesterday, morphine has been advanced in some quarters to 4*s.* 9*d.* per oz. for powder hydrochloride, though there are still sellers at 4*s.* 6*d.* per oz.

**OIL, CASSIA.**—Firmer, and in fair inquiry, business having been done at 4*s.* 1*d.* per lb., c.i.f., for 80 to 85 per cent.; 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. is quoted 3*s.* 10*d.*; and 70 per cent. to 75 per cent. 3*s.* 5*d.* per lb. The business done this week has all been for forward shipment.

**OIL, CASTOR.**—Firmer. Belgian, first pressing, spot, 25*s.* 6*d.*; second pressing, 23*s.* per cwt.; Hull manufactured, 21*s.* to 25*s.* 9*d.* per cwt. in barrels, and 2½*d.* to 3¼*d.* per lb. in cases ex wharf London; Italian finest medicinal, 34*s.*, c.i.f.; London pressed, 24*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. in barrels. French in barrels is 30*s.* per cwt., spot, and in cases 33*s.* 6*d.*

Calcutta advices report a firm market, there being good request for immediate deliveries for shipment to Australia, the Cape, China, and the Straits Settlements. Stock and production being small, the present high rates are likely to continue for some time. No pale medicinal oil is available.

**OIL, COD-LIVER.**—The demand has fallen off, as usual at this time of the year, and quotations are nominally unchanged, at 55*s.* per barrel, c.i.f., for new.

**BERGEN, June 24.**—A few small sales of Lofoten non-congealing oil have been made at unchanged rates, but the market is slow and easy, at 56*s.* per barrel, f.o.b. The market during the dull summer season is likely to remain at the above figure, and contracting-business is over. Exports to date are 5,940 barrels, as against 4,103 at the same time last year.

**OIL, LEMON.**—Higher, some agents having advanced their

quotation to 3*s.* 8*d.* per lb., c.i.f., for Messina make; but there is little doing here. Messina advices, dated June 20, report a higher market, and well-known brands are quoted at 3*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* 5*d.* per lb., c.i.f.

**OIL, LIME,** is in good inquiry, and 4*s.* per lb. for West Indian (as imported) is asked, but unobtainable.

**OIL, ORANGE.**—Messina advices, dated June 20, report that there has been a sharp advance in sweet-orange oil, which is now quoted at 7*s.* 6*d.* per lb. Stocks are considerably reduced, and, as the new crop is not expected to be available before October next, still higher prices are looked for in the near future, as the present demand is a brisk one.

**OIL, PEPPERMINT.**—HGH is firmer at 5*s.* to 5*s.* 3*d.* per lb., and Wayne County at 3*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.* per lb., c.i.f., but there is no demand.

**OIL, TURPENTINE.**—American is lower, spot now being quoted 31*s.* 7½*d.* per cwt.

**OPIUM.**—A good business has been done this week, transactions amounting to over 100 cases. Persian of fine quality has sold at 11*s.* to 11*s.* 6*d.*; Smyrna druggists', 8*s.* 1½*d.* to 8*s.* 6*d.* per lb.; Yoghouma, 7*s.* 4½*d.* Nothing has been done in soft-shipping.

**SMYRNA, June 17.**—Business is very difficult to transact at the moment in consequence of the firmness of holders, who say that higher prices are a certainty. An exporter has obtained a small lot of Karahissar talequale at 8*s.* per lb., c.i.f. The arrivals of old opium since the beginning of the season to date have been 1,473 cases, as against 3,607 cases; the arrivals of new have been 127 cases, as against 11. A large proportion of dealers are taking no interest as yet in the new crop, feeling sure that prices will tumble down.

**CONSTANTINOPLE, June 23.**—What we foresaw some time back—viz., that the opium crop had been greatly exaggerated and would not yield as much as was expected, is gradually becoming evident to all. Prices in the interior have opened very high, and the parity of 7*s.* 8*d.* and 7*s.* 9*d.* per lb., f.o.b., has been freely paid by natives for new crop. It is becoming daily more evident that a yield of over 7,000 cases is practically impossible, and that prices will be, if anything, higher ere long. The stock of druggists' grades on this market is barely 60 to 70 cases.

The *Courrier de Smyrne* has recently summed up the position of the opium-crop in a long article, in the course of which it says that the yield will range between 8,000 and 10,000 cases. All depends, however, upon the atmospheric conditions which influence the plant until its full development. On the very eve of the cutting a bad wind blowing from the desert for a single day may upset all calculations. This is what happened in 1870. However, 1,000 cases more or less would not sensibly alter the situation. What should receive the first attention of opium-producers is the quality of the article. The quality of tale quale opium has been deteriorating, and if we do not take care it will be difficult to sell our opium. Is not that the reason that we have lost one of our former good markets—China? and that the Netherlands only take a third of what they used to do for her colonies? It is true that tale quale, contrary to the meaning of the word, does not change hands without having been examined by an expert; but, judging by the naked eye only, and without analysis, it is difficult to class the different kinds with accuracy. The most practical way of getting over the difficulty according to us would be to return to the old system and to establish a distinction between the good opium and the "Chinkinti," or second quality, each quality being sold, as formerly, at its own price. This would greatly simplify matters for buyers and everyone concerned. [We welcome any expression of opinion tending to influence Turkish opium makers and merchants to improve the quality of the product.—Ed. C. & D.]

**OTTO OF ROSE.**—Agents here continue to receive unfavourable reports from Bulgaria, and are disposed to hold their stocks for a rise in expectation of dearer prices later.

**QUICKSILVER.**—A good business is reported this week, and second-hand holders have no quotation. First-hand today is firm, at 8*l.* 5*s.* per bottle, and a rise is imminent.

**QUININE.**—Very quiet, and during the past two days there has been no business whatever. Prices remain steady, the second-hand quotations being 1*s.* 4*d.* per oz. spot, August 1*s.* 4½*d.*, and October at 1*s.* 4¾*d.* per oz. To-day the market is firmer, business having been done at 1*s.* 4¾*d.* for August delivery, and 1*s.* 4¾*d.* asked. Makers' rates are unchanged. The makers of Pelletier's brand wish us to make it clear that their price is 1*s.* 6*d.*

The shipments from Java during April were 200 cases, all for the U.K. From July 1, 1898, to April 30, 1899, the total amount shipped was 1,251 cases.



**RHUBARB.**—A few lots have sold since the auctions at unchanged rates.

**SARSAPILLA.**—A few bales of Lima have sold at 1s. 1d. per lb.; 12 bales of this variety have arrived this week. For Guayaquil 1s. 4d. is wanted, and Mexican 7d. per lb.

**SEEDS.**—The price of *Canary-seed* is gradually advancing, the London market following slowly the lead of Liverpool. It is difficult to buy Turkish or Barbary under 31s. per quarter, and holders do not seem to be eager sellers. *Cumin* firm, with business doing in good Malta at 28s. per cwt. *Coriander* quiet, at 7s per cwt. *Fenugreek* slow, at 6s. 6d. to 7s. per cwt. *Caraways* firm, at 23s. 6d. per cwt.

**SENEGA.**—New-crop Minnesota root is offered at 11d. per lb., c.i.f.

**SHELLAC.**—At auction on Tuesday the small supply of 378 cases was offered chiefly without reserve, and all sold with good competition at the previous rates to 1s. per cwt. advance for second orange, while button was easier and Garnet steady. The following were some of the prices paid:—Good reddish free 66s., ditto cakey and blocky 65s., bright curly matted 64s. to 65s., and strong curly free at 63s. to 64s. Garnet, fair strong and cakey 60s. Button good pale, 76s. to 73s. for fair pale resinous. Privately little business of importance has been done.

**SPICES.**—Business has been quiet during the week, but prices show scarcely any alteration. At the auctions on Wednesday Cochin *Ginger* met with little demand, and nearly all the rough qualities were bought in; one lot of ordinary washed sold at 22s. per cwt., and a few cases of bold, partly limed, at 35s.; cut descriptions sold better, at 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d. for medium and small native cut, and at 45s. 6d. to 49s. 6d. for bold and medium roughly cut. Jamaica, although not in large supply, only partly found buyers at a reduction of about 2s. per cwt., the finer qualities being steady. Bengal bought in. Japan very firm, with small business at 20s. 6d. per cwt. *Zanzibar Cloves* very quiet; business has been done for October-December delivery at 3½d. per lb. *Capsicums* sold at 23s. 6d. per cwt. for long yellow pods off stalk. *Pimento* dull; very little sold: greyish stalky at 3½d. per lb. and good clean at 3¾d. *Cassia* quiet, and unchanged. *Cinnamon-chips* sold at 2½d. to 3½d. for common to good, and at 3¾d. to 4¾d. for hard quillings. *Pepper* steady; good estate Malabar black sold at 5d. to 5½d. per lb. for small, and at 5½d. to 5¾d. for bold. Singapore is worth 5½d. on the spot and 5¾d. to 5¾d. to arrive, according to position. Singapore white has sold at 3½d. per lb. to arrive, the spot value being 8½d. Good fair was bought in at 8½d., and fine bold at 11¼d. Penang steady, at 8d. to 8½d. per lb. on the spot.

**SQUILLS.**—Advices from producing centres state that only a small crop is to be expected this year, and quotations for dry white run from 17s. 6d. to 20s. per cwt., c.i.f. There have been some arrivals this week. 4d. per lb. is wanted here for fine white.

**TAMARINDS.**—Since the auctions there have been sales of fair West Indian at 10s. 6d. per cwt.

**TURMERIC.**—Slow of sale with a small business in Bengal at 18s. 6d. to 19s., good to fine bright Madras at 25s. to 27s. 6d., Cochin finger 17s. 6d., ditto split bulbs 9s. to 9s. 6d., and fair Chinese finger at 18s. per cwt.

Calcutta advices dated June 1 state that the export-trade has not improved, but the local consumption is good, and rates are maintained in consequence.

**VANILLA** has been in fair demand at firmer rates, in consequence of the auctions now being held monthly. Wild vanilla is also dearer, the market in Bordeaux having been cleared.

**WAX (BEES').**—There has been little doing here since the sales.

The large quantity of 2,786 cwt. left Leghorn in 1898, as compared with 1,887 cwt. in 1897, and an average of 1,562 cwt. for the years 1891-97. The increase is accounted for by the large demand from the United States, whose supplies of Cuban wax were in danger of being cut off. Leghorn merchants actually received cheques in advance accompanying orders from firms with which they had never previously dealt. The amount shipped to Great Britain was 1,457 cwt., valued at 8,280l. (1897, 1,258 cwt. 7,153l.).

**WAX, CARNAUBA.**—Business has been done in Liverpool lately at the following rates: yellow 70s., good medium 57s. 6d., and grey 42s. to 45s. per cwt. The amount of Carnauba wax exported from Pernambuco in 1898 was 442 tons (1,989l.), and in 1897 332 tons (1,501l.). From Ceará, 258 273 kilos. were exported in 1898, 223,000 in 1897, and 160,250 kilos. in 1896.

**WAX, JAPANESE.**—Easier, at 28s. 9d. per cwt., c.i.f., for good pale.

## The Vanilla Crop.

(From a Seychelles Correspondent.)

THE VANILLA-CROP OF 1899 will certainly be a good deal below the average, both in quantity and quality. Owing to the long spell of dry weather in February and March, there has been a heavy loss in pods, especially in the low-lying districts where the dry weather was more severely felt than in the hills. The crop will be very early—in fact, curing has already commenced everywhere. The price of green pods is steady at 8r. per hundred for all stuff over 6 inches. Curers are already complaining that a good deal of the vanilla now being sent to them is thin and short. The average number of pods to the pound will, therefore, very probably be greater than usual. The plantations are now in excellent order—the April showers having done a world of good. There is an excellent “counter-season” flowering in the hills, and there is also every prospect of another good flowering later on.

THE VANILLA ESTATE-MARKET is looking up: good vanilla land now fetches many times what it could be obtained for a few years ago. Here is a true story of what luck and good management can do. An English gentleman, who had had some previous experience in vanilla, purchased in 1889 about 90 acres of forest-land at Mahé. This cost him about 1,500r., and during the next two years he spent about 2,000r. in planting and getting his land under vanilla. Since 1892, when this estate came into bearing, the net profits per annum have varied between 500l. and 1,200l. Last year he went home, got married, and sold his estate for 2,500l. That is to say, with an original capital of about 250l. he has cleared over 8,000l. in ten years. This is an exceptional case. I cannot too strongly urge young Englishmen to be careful about investing in vanilla. At least two years are necessary for an inexperienced person to become acquainted with all the ins and outs of planting and curing vanilla.

**ROADS WANTED.**—For years planters in remote parts of Mahé have been complaining of the absence of foot-paths and roads, and the consequent difficulty of communicating with Port Victoria, the capital. Our Administrator obtained a loan from the Colonial Office for 20,000l. for road-making in Mahé and the other islands. Instead of obtaining the advice of his Legislative Council or of the landowners most interested, he applied to Ceylon for an engineer to scheme the roads, which he did before he had been a month in Seychelles. About two-thirds of the loan obtained from the Colonial Office has now been spent, and there is nothing to show for it. Now the advice of the Legislative Council and of the planters is asked for, and it is hoped that with the 100,000r. remaining a good bit of the country may be opened up, whereby vanilla-cultivation will be greatly extended.

**EXPORTS OF VANILLA** from May 1 to 17—To Paris, three cases; to London, eleven cases, per ss. *Sièdhana*, via Bombay.

**MR. ALFRED ROPER**, who has been associated with Messrs. Seton Laing & Co., as market-clerk, has joined the firm of Messrs. Jenkin and Phillips, 14 Mincing Lane, E.C. in the same capacity.

**NEGLIGENT SALE OF ARSENIC.**—At Liverpool on Tuesday Mr. Stewart, stipendiary magistrate, fined the Boundary Chemical Company (Limited) 1l., and 4l. 4s. costs, for unlawfully selling arsenic to Mr. Harry Moon, a clerk to the Pharmaceutical Society and a person unknown to them.



## Questioning a Quinologist.

MR. DAVID HOOPER, F.I.C., the Curator of the Economic Section of the Indian Museum at Calcutta, is now at home on furlough, and we had the opportunity the other day of renewing our acquaintance with him. Mr. Hooper is one of our old Students' Corner prizemen, and is well known to many pharmacists at home. He had a distinguished career as a student. Before entering the School of Pharmacy he obtained, in 1878, the bronze herbarium medal of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. He then entered the School of Pharmacy, and in the session of 1880 obtained distinction in every subject, but especially in botany and materia medica, for which he carried off the bronze and silver medals, and in practical chemistry he was silver-medallist. After passing the Major examination he carried off the blue ribbon of pharmacy—the Pereira medal.



MR. DAVID HOOPER, F.I.C.

Mr. Hooper then became an assistant chemist in Messrs. Corbyn, Stacey & Co.'s laboratories, after which he was appointed chemist to Messrs. Southall Brothers & Barclay, of Birmingham. While there Mr. Hooper applied for and obtained the appointment of Quinologist to the Government of Madras at Ottacamund, and there did excellent service, investigating many chemical and botanical problems, and making the arrangements for the manufacture of quinine. It is as a pharmacognosist, however, that Mr. Hooper is best known

to scientific pharmacy. The preparation of "Pharmacographia Indica" was largely his work. The late Surgeon-Major Dymock, whose knowledge of Indian materia medica was so intimate, was a prominent co-author, also Surgeon-Major Warden of Calcutta.

Mr. Hooper may be regarded as lieutenant to Dr. George Watt, the Reporter on Economic Products to the Indian Government. As curator of the Calcutta Museum his work has wider application than pharmacy, and during his visit home he is spending his time in inspecting the principal economic museums of Europe, inquiring into their systems, so that his own museum may be perfected in arrangement.

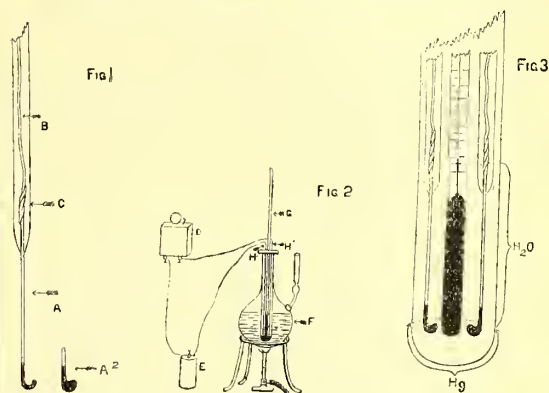
We were glad to hear from Mr. Hooper that the Indigenous Drugs Committee, of which he was secretary during Dr. Watt's recent furlough in England, is making steady progress with its investigations. A certain number of Indian drugs are being systematically examined and reported upon in all their aspects, especially with regard to their origin, commerce, pharmacy, and therapeutic action. The last point embodies the chief difficulties, pharmacologists being scarce and full of work, so that most of the work in this department must be done in India with such resources as the medical officers have at their disposal. These are not ideal, but the results, as a whole, Mr. Hooper believes, will put Indian materia medica on a better platform than it has been hitherto, and there will be a better chance for the employment of Indian drugs in general practice throughout the world, and a decided opinion will be given on those qualified for inclusion in future Pharmacopoeias.

The future of cinchona-cultivation in India naturally came up in the conversation. This is now practically concentrated into the Government's hands, and as time goes on the *Cinchona officinalis*, which is the tree best adapted for India, and a rich yielder of quinine, will, to a large extent, displace all other kinds. *C. succirubra* provides the best cinchona febrifuge, but the trees are gradually being uprooted. We questioned the wisdom of reducing the cultivation of red-bark trees considering the present demand for

cinchonidine, which is solely derived from this species; but Mr. Hooper thought that this is probably a temporary prejudice, cinchonidine having no special advantage over the alkaloid quinine with its well-established anti-malarial properties. We innocently expressed the hope that the Ledger tree would be cultivated in India; but Mr. Hooper made short work of that suggestion by saying that after many years' trial in different localities it cannot be profitably grown there, the soil, unlike that of the island of Java, being unsuitable for propagating the varieties of *C. Calisaya*. Mr. Hooper will not return to India until the autumn, and, if arrangements permit, he will attend the Conference at Plymouth, in order to make a communication and to renew old acquaintances.

## Melting-point Arrangement.

MR. EDWIN DOWZARD communicates a note to the *Chemical News* on an electrical arrangement for taking melting-points of fats and waxes, which is figured in the subjoined engravings. The advantage of it is that it saves the operator the weary watching and uncertainty which accompany melting-point observations. Fig. 1 represents a piece of



stout platinum wire (A) with a crook at the extremity, fastened to a long piece of copper wire (B), the platinum wire being fused into a glass tube (C) about 10 inches long. Two of these wires are required for the operation, which is done as follows:—The sample of fat or wax is melted in a small capsule, the platinum wires are dipped into the melted sample, taken out, allowed to cool, and the process repeated about three times; the wires then have the appearance of A<sup>2</sup>, fig. 1. The coated wires are allowed to stand for three or four hours, and then placed in the inner tube of an Anschütz and Schulze melting-point apparatus, fig. 2 (F), along with a thermometer. A quantity of mercury is now introduced into the inner tube, sufficient to allow the wires to be immersed to the top of the crook; water is then poured in until the bulb of the thermometer is completely covered. The outer flask is filled with water to the same level as the water in the inner tube. The wires are now connected with a battery and bell (see fig. 2), and the temperature gradually raised; when within about 4° of the probable melting-point the temperature should rise at the rate of about 1° in 70 seconds. The reading is taken immediately the bell rings.

Fig. 2 represents the complete apparatus. H' H'' are the wires, G the thermometer, E the battery, and D the bell. Fig. 3 represents the bottom portion of the inner tube, and shows how far the mercury and water go

"PRACTICAL METHODS OF URINE-ANALYSIS."—This is truly a most practical and useful little handbook. Within its forty-eight pages is tersely and clearly presented the information which one needs who is about to take up the profitable work of urinary analysis. The chief characteristic of the book is its eminent practicality; and its only disadvantage for American pharmacists is that the several bits of apparatus described and recommended are of foreign birth.—*Bulletin of Pharmacy*. [Published by the C. & D. Price 1s. 6d.; by post 1s. 8d.]



## Photographic Notes.

BY A PHARMACEUTICAL CAMERIST.

### ONE-SOLUTION SENSITISERS

are much in vogue just now for sensitising postcards or notepapers. Liesegang some twenty years ago proposed the following solution, which gives good results:—

Silver nitrate...	...	...	3 grammes
Uranium nitrate ...	...	...	30 grammes
Distilled water ...	...	...	10 c.c.
Absolute alcohol ...	...	...	100 c.c.

The solution must be kept in the dark or in an opaque bottle. The sensitised paper prepared from it requires to be used within twenty-four hours.

Recently M. Garbe published a formula. It is—

Silver nitrate...	...	...	4 grammes
Tartaric acid ...	...	...	4 grammes
Water ...	...	...	60 c.c.

To tone the prints only a weak toning-bath is needed, but the prints must be thoroughly fixed.

### HYDRAMINE DEVELOPER.

M. LOUIS LUMIÈRE recently communicated to the Congrès des Sociétés Savantes a paper by MM. Lumière frères and Seyewetz on a new developing-agent which they have called "Hydramine." Hydramine is, they say, an additive combination of an amine and a phenylic derivative. The following is the formula which the authors give:—

	Grammes
Anhydrous sulphite of soda	16
Caustic lithia...	3
Hydramine ...	5
Water ...	1,000

The developer so formed is stated to be especially sensitive to the restraining action of bromide of potassium, and on that account to be very suitable for developing over-exposed plates.

### PLATE-BACKING.

SUGGESTIONS for anti-halation backings continue to be put forward with great regularity. One writer suggests the use of vaseline, which is to be applied to the back of a plate with a stiff brush, and a piece of opaque paper well squeezed on the top of the vaseline. I do not care for this idea, nor do I for the proposal to apply Brunswick black, and remove it with turpentine just before development. M. Goddé communicated the following to the French Photographic Society as being the most satisfactory backing he has used:—

Yellow beeswax	...	...	25 parts
Paraffin-wax ...	...	...	35 "
Vaseline ...	...	...	35 "
Earthy pigment	...	...	50 "

These are melted in a glue-pot, and brushed on the back of the plate. The ointment sets as soon as it is applied to the cold plate, and is easily scraped off with a spatula.

### PLATINUM TONING-BATH.

A NEW formula for this contains phenylene-diamine and chloroplatinite of potassium. The reducing action of the phenylene-diamine causes metallic platinum to be on the verge of deposition, and thus in a suitable condition for a toning-bath. The formula is:—

Phenylene-diamine (1 per cent. sol.) ...	...	...	5 to 10 c.c.
Potassium-chloroplatinite (1 per cent. sol.) ...	...	...	5 to 10 c.c.
Distilled water	...	...	100 c.c.

Matt surface-papers are very satisfactorily toned with this, the tones given being intense platinum-blacks.

### PHOTOGRAPHY A TEST FOR REAGENTS.

MESSRS. LUMIÈRE FRÈRES' process of development with acetone, &c., has been put to a novel use by them in detecting the presence of these bodies by their photographic behaviour. To apply the test, 25 c.c. of an aqueous or alcoholic solution

of the substance under examination is mixed with double the quantity of solution containing 7 per cent. sulphite of soda, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of pyrogallol or a similar hydroquinone solution, and applied to a plate acted upon by light. A similar test-solution is diluted with an equal bulk of water, and applied also to an exposed plate, and the two plates are compared. The method is so sensitive that it will detect formaldehyde (formalin) diluted 25,000 times, acetaldehyde 15,000, and acetone 2,500 times.

### DARK-ROOMS.

Hamilton.—Balfour Reekie, The Brandon Pharmacy.  
Swansea.—D. L. Evans, 27 Walter Road.

## Practical Notes and Formulae.

### SYRUPUS ALTHÆÆ

Althæa, cut into small pieces	...	50 grammes
Alcohol (90-per-cent.)	...	30 c.c.
Sugar	...	750 grammes
Water, a sufficient quantity to make	...	1,000 c.c.

Wash the althæa with cold water, then macerate it with 400 c.c. of water, previously mixed with the alcohol during three hours, stirring frequently, and strain without expression. Heat the infusion to boiling, add 10 grammes of purified talcum, and filter while hot, passing a sufficient quantity of boiling water through the filter to measure 400 c.c. Add the sugar to the filtrate, heat to boiling, remove the scum, and strain. When cold add a sufficient quantity of water to make the syrup measure 1,000 c.c.

Keep the syrup in completely-filled bottles in a cool place. Of several methods experimented with, none furnished as satisfactory a preparation as the above.—Mr. F. W. Haussmann in the *American Journal of Pharmacy*.

### TOOTH-POWDER AND MOUTH-WASH FOR CHILDREN.

MONTI'S formulas are given as follows in the *Dental Review*:—

Magnesium carbonate	...	...	75 gr.
White chalk	...	...	225 "
Sodium salicylate	...	...	225 "
Oil of peppermint	...	...	6 drops

Mix.

Boric acid	...	...	3 parts
Distilled water	...	...	200 "
Tincture of myrrh	...	...	2 "

Mix.

### JAPAN WAX FOR GALENICALS.

MR. ROBERT C. PURSEL, a student of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, at a recent meeting of the college read a paper on "Japan Wax as a Substitute for Beeswax in the Official Ointments and Cerates." He has found that Japan wax is a very good substitute for beeswax in nearly all of the official ointments, and in all of the official cerates. The products made with Japan wax were slightly darker in colour than those made with beeswax, but the difference was not sufficiently pronounced to be considered a serious objection. While the melting-point of Japan wax was found to be lower than that of beeswax, its composition appears to be firmer, and hence a smaller quantity is required to give a preparation the desired consistency. The main points, however, which were advanced in favour of Japan wax were those relating to its purity and cost as compared with beeswax. There is considerable difficulty in obtaining pure beeswax (one of its adulterants being Japan wax), while pure Japan wax is readily obtainable at about one-fourth the price of beeswax. Replying to Professor Remington, Mr. La Wall said that no less than 20,000 lbs. had come under his notice, and that in only one case was it adulterated, the adulterant being starch. He said that on exposure it becomes slightly yellowish. [What applies to the U.S.P. is good for B.P. purposes. There is no doubt that Japan wax is less adulterated than beeswax.—ED. C. & D.]

"PRACTICAL METHODS OF URINE-ANALYSIS" is an epitome of exactness and precision, which should find a place in every pharmacist's library.—*Drug Topics*. [Published by the C. & D. Price 1s. 6d.; by post 1s. 8d.]



## Advertising Ideas.

### CONCISE AND CONVINCING.

"You touch the button, we do the rest" has been admittedly one of the happiest of advertising-hits. Kodak (Limited) are now competing in America with their own success. "Holidays are kodak-days" is their latest maxim.

### ADVERTISING A CORN-CURE.

Mr. Arden, a Winchester chemist, advertises his corn-cure locally in a rather original manner, thus:—

Strange fatality. Four days' experience of a corn with Arden's Dr. Johnson's corn-silk.

First day,	Felt bad.
Second day,	Got worse.
Third day,	No better.
Fourth day,	Died!!

Brother corns take warning and don't treat with contempt remedies you have had no experience of, and if you wish to prolong a useless existence avoid Arden's Dr. Johnson's corn-silk as though it were the worst of poisons. It has killed thousands of our race. It does its work quickly, quietly, and only too well. As a fraternity we are doomed, unless the most active steps are taken to resist its fatal influence.

The corn has nothing to say against other so-called cures. If used according to the directions they have an excellent tonic and exhilarating effect.

### THE GREATEST SHOW OF PILLS ON EARTH.

Inhabitants of the North of London were startled recently by a row of sandwichmen, who announced to all and sundry that "the greatest show of pills on earth" was to be seen at Bishop's Drug-stores in Holloway Road. The window, one of our ambassadors found, was completely filled with vases and bottles of pearl-coated Bland's pills, which were arranged from the window-sill to the ceiling, forming a screen at the back. There were also displays on the sill itself and up the sides. The show was a trifle monotonous, and would have been improved by a dash of colour. To pharmacists, however, the startling part of the show was that the pills were priced at 4d. per gross, or 10½d. for three gross. In regard to the show being the greatest one of pills on earth, the fact is worth recalling that a well-known American pill-company exhibited at the Chicago Exhibition 16,000 oz. of quinine sulphate in 2-gr. pills, the whole making no fewer than 3½ million pills. These were shown in a plate-glass casket resting upon hollow pillars, and both casket and pillars were filled with the pills, which were pink and white. The Bishop show struck our ambassador as being behind the Chicago one.

### INDIAN ADVERTISING.

There is something quaintly innocent and at the same time cunning about the way the gentle Hindoo advertises his medical discoveries. Here are a few examples. One firm request the gentlemen who feel anxious to marry their daughters "for their complexions somewhat dark" to test a preparation which "removes all freckles, pimples, blotches, and other blemishes." An advertiser who starts boldly with "Don't lose your life," proceeds: "As ordered by Parmahansjee, who has supplied me with the medicine, I have inserted this advertisement for the benefit of humanity and not to earning more money"—a type of disinterested philanthropist not uncommon among Western nations. Then there is, of course, the universal panacea. "Cures Indigestion, sleeplessness, vital energy, general debility, lost or short brain, or memory, makes the mind imaginative and active." An elixir "does not contain any kind of poisonous ingredients, and also contains some Celtic preparation by which a few doses will act like miracle in the human system, and produce some sensations and changes of the health like the rays of the sun. Its best effects are visible in two weeks." The final touch to this advertisement is admirable: "By-the-bye, it cures all diseases pronounced as hopeless, and by the leading medical men." But the most perplexing of all is the statement concerning "Hair

Depilatory Soap." "Superfluous hair will instantly and effectually be removed without any injury to the skin; it is highly perfumed," and "absolutely necessary to all"—a grim statement for the bald man to make merry over.

## The Awakening.

HERE am I, Octavins Pilliant,  
Lean and spare,  
Fresh from school of learning brilliant,  
At the Square;  
Took the medal of Pereira,  
Was the Prizeman of my year-a;  
And to me no calling dearer,  
Or so fair.

Well I know my work botanic  
Was profound,  
And in chemistry organic  
I was sound;  
I could, to a decimal fraction,  
Give each chemical reaction,  
And shed general satisfaction  
All around.



So a Major man they made me,  
Bold and proud;  
And the Profs. much homage paid me,  
Praising loud;  
Said my medica materia  
And researches in bacteria  
Raised me infinitely superior  
To the crowd.

So a pharmacy I opened,  
High-class style;  
For my learning sure betokened  
Future pile;  
But, alas! I fear the ending  
Of my dreams in vapour blending,  
For my trade seems but the vending  
Of "air ile."



## Wellcome Club and Institute.



THE TEMPLE BY THE LAKE.

ARTFORD was *en fête* last Saturday, the streets crowded with holiday-makers, the church bells ringing, and merriment abounding. The sleepy hollow, as the old town has been for a few generations, sadly needs relief from its historic associations, chief of which are Wat Tyler's insurrection and its starting the first English paper mill. Pharmaceutically it is not without distinction, for Mr. George Edwards, one of the most earnest of the founders of the Pharmaceutical Society, was in business there, and it has seen the tabloid development of pharmacy carried to a point which is difficult to realise without seeing Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co.'s extensive and ever-extending premises. One drawback to the place is its isolation, and the lack of means of recreation—mental and physical. This has been partly met in an adventurous manner at the B. W. & Co.'s factory; but Mr. Wellcome, recognising that the exceedingly rapid increase in the number of his workers might help to convert the drawback into a positive evil, some time ago acquired the old Manor House, Acacia Hall, with its grounds and various buildings, and these he has had adapted for the use of the employés as a Club and Institute. It was the inauguration of this that made Dartford gay last Saturday. The affair means more to the town than can at present be reckoned, and that it is for good was shown by the fact that, after the company from London had witnessed from the station-platform a smart piece of drill by the works fire-brigade, they assembled in the parish church, where the Rev. Percy E. Smith, Vicar of Dartford, conducted an undenominational service before a congregation of nearly 1,000. The fine old church was beautifully decorated, and the service was fully choral. To the prayers for the Queen and Royal Family was added one for the President of the United States and the fraternity of the English-speaking peoples. This over at about noon, a handful of the visitors and principal employés accompanied Mr. Wellcome from the church to the gate of the Club a few yards beyond, where Mr. R. Clay Sudlow, the general manager, on behalf of the staff, presented his chief with a golden key to open the gate, which Mr. Wellcome did, saying, "This Club and Institute is open, and may God bless the Club." Dr. John Attfield, F.R.S., was the first to enter the grounds after Mr. Wellcome, then followed Mr. Sudlow, Mr. Lloyd Williams, Miss Martin Leake, and other leading employés of the firm, as well as visitors, amongst whom were Mr. A. Lee Ward, Miss Genevieve Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lincoln, Dr. A. Chune Fletcher, Mrs. and Miss Dorothy Fletcher, Mr. and Mrs. Hiram S. Maxim, Mr. A. J. Mounteney Jephson, Mr. E. M. Holmes, Mr. Wm. Bickford, Mr. Bickford, jun., Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Mathew, Mrs. and Miss Hepworth Dixon, and the principal residents of Dartford, including the local clergy.

An idea of the nature of Mr. Wellcome's gift to his workers may be gathered from the accompanying bird's-eye view. How many acres of ground there are in the estate we did not learn; but the River Darent runs through it from end to end, with a lake in the middle. There is also a creek, and the river affords opportunity for fishing, boating, and bathing. The lake is 5 on the bird's-eye view; 6 is the sports-field, giving room for several cricket-pitches and tennis-courts. The dining-tent, 7, was placed in another field on Saturday. The tent seated over 900, and outside it a dozen temporary buildings were erected for the purveyors (Messrs. Spiers & Pond). This is anticipating, however. After entering the grounds, Mr. Wellcome conducted the party past the gymnasium and assembly-hall, 1, and library for female employés, 2, on to the staff club-house, 4, in which the Lord of the Manor was wont to reside. This is a good old mansion with fine hall. The rooms on the right side are arranged for gentlemen, and on the left for ladies, the furniture being old oak, Cheriton, Chippendale, or other equally rare speci-

mens, and there are added many good pictures and bric-à-brac, which make the atmosphere inviting. The public rooms on the first floor contain some fine art treasures and old manuscripts which Mr. Wellcome has lent from his private collection. This club-house is intended for the "brains" of the staff. The "hands" have the free run of the library, 2, for the female workers, while the men have the tower-house, 3, both of which are substantially furnished. Everything has been well thought out for securing the objects of the Club—viz, the promotion of harmony and social intercourse amongst the employés, and supplying them with a pleasant resort outside of business-hours; also to encourage mental and physical recreation by means of music, literary, and other entertainments, technical and other instruction classes, with occasional lectures, and athletics, field sports, and games.

After luncheon speaking commenced with the toast of "The Queen"; then Mr. Wellcome spoke to the toast of the day, "The Employés—Success to the Wellcome Club and Institute," saying that mutual consideration was the foundation of the good relations between the firm and its employés, and he considered that he had a corps of workers which equalled, if it did not surpass, that of any other pharmaceutical firm in the world. The Club, he remarked, was not a charitable institution; each employé was free to join or not, as he or she desired, and every one would be an honorary member for a week, so that he might judge whether it was worth the small administrative annual fee. Having referred to the different departments and the men and women at the head of them, Mr. Wellcome asked Mr. Sudlow, the Vice-Chairman, to reply, which he did in a masterly speech. This brought out the fact that the idea of the Club

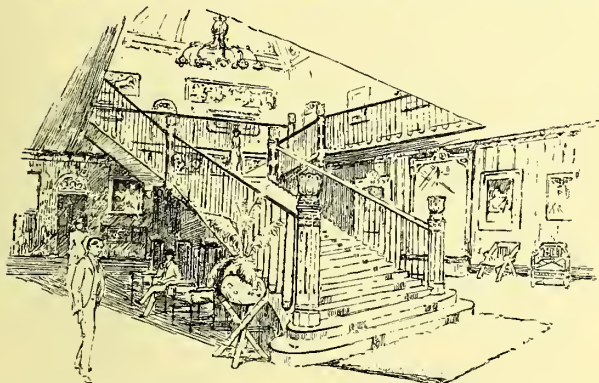


BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE ESTATE.

originated with Mr. Wellcome absolutely, and, speaking for his fellow-workers, he said they owed Mr. Wellcome deep and everlasting gratitude for the thought which he had ungrudgingly given to make the Club complete in every detail. The rest of the speech breathed affection for the donor, and was so well spoken and so punctuated with applause that Dr. Attfield had a high level in oratory to reach when he got up to propose "The Firm." To some his



mere presence was significant of much. As the exponent of official pharmacy and the advocate of technical progression in pharmaceutical education Dr. Attfield stands alone, and these factors were worked into his speech. He had known the firm from the first, when Mr. Burroughs came



STAFF CLUB-HOUSE STAIRCASE.

to found it, and had always respected the association of the scientific and commercial pharmacy. It was distinguished for its progressive spirit, the entire reliability of all the articles sent out from its premises, the originality which had always characterised its designs, and, from what Mr. Sudlow had said, the wonderful skill and organising faculty of Mr. Wellcome. These latter were excellently shown in the day's proceedings, which Dr. Attfield briefly outlined, and, proceeding, he told how thirty-six years ago, at Newcastle, several pharmacists met in a little room, amongst them Harry Brady, Richard Reynolds, Henry Deane, and himself, to found a pharmaceutical association (the British Pharmaceutical Conference), whose objects were promotion of research and good fellowship in pharmacy—the very objects which were reflected by Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. He also mentioned the fact that in every department of that great firm he found his old pupils. Men from Bloomsbury Square were some of its brightest ornaments—Mr. Lloyd Williams, Dr. Jowett, Mr. Aubrey Hill, Mr. Lord, and Mr. Carr, and he believed they would soon have with them Mr. Harrison and Miss Francis McCann. He wished the firm every success in their high vocation, and heartily toasted the health of Mr. Wellcome, who replied with a feeling of pride, saying that he felt it an honour to have Professor Attfield with them. In the course of his speech Mr. Wellcome mentioned that his staff is now increasing at the rate of one hundred a year: last year 700 attended the annual outing, this year 800. Then "The Press and Visitors" were toasted, and to this Dr. Creasy, of Welbeck Street, responded.

The company next gathered round the sports-field, where at 2.45 a score of the prettiest girls in the Dartford factory indulged in the Maypole Dance to the delight of the company. This was followed by athletic sports, which concluded with a tug of war in which the Snow Hill contingent were beaten, but they equalised on tennis. Tea was served in the tent at 6.15, then came aquatic sports, a musical bicycle-ride, and other forms of pleasure, which were wound up by a display of fireworks by Pain, the grounds and lake (shown below) being illuminated. The fête as a whole was strikingly illustrative of the advance of elegant pharmacy.



## Recent Chemistry.

### PREPARATION OF CAPALLOIN.

STOEDER gives, in *Nederl. Tijdschr. v. Phar.* the following method for the preparation of aloin from Cape aloes:—Dissolve 100 grammes of Cape aloes in 500 c.c. distilled water containing 2 per cent. sulphuric acid, and filter into 500 c.c. water. After twenty-four hours the pale solution, which is free from resin and gives no emodin reaction, is evaporated in a vacuum to about 120 c.c. and set aside in a cool place. In about a week crystals begin to form, but not before three months can any considerable quantity be collected. By crystallising from alcohol he obtained the aloin in yellow needles grouped together in rosette shape. The yield was 3.8 per cent., and an analysis of the pure product gave the formula  $C_{18}H_{33}O_{23} \cdot 3H_2O$ , or very near to that of Tilden for socaloin—i.e.,  $C_{16}H_{17}O_7$ . The pure crystallised aloin melted at  $119^{\circ}$ – $121^{\circ}$  C., dissolved 1 in 116 of water, and 1 in 1672 of water-free ether. The aloin gives a yellow reaction with nitric acid, and Curaçao aloin a red. Klingsch's reaction gave, with Cape aloin, a reddish-violet colouration. The author points out that this is contrary to Tschirch's opinion, and he therefore adds that he obtained the reaction by treating the Cape aloes with water, diluting the solution with water until it was straw-colour, then adding a few drops of copper-sulphate solution, when a canary-yellow colour is produced, which, on the addition of dilute hydrocyanic acid, changes to cherry-red. The reaction carried out in this way can be used to distinguish aloes from frangula, senna, and rhubarb.

### COPAIBA BALSAM.

DR. KARL DIETERICH has examined the commercial kinds of copaiba as regards their acid, ester, and saponification numbers, and gives the results in *Pharm. Centralt.*, No. 20, page 311. The sp. gr. are determinations by other observers which he mentions in his paper. In the subjoined statement we give the lowest and highest limits under each heading:—

—	Sp. gr.	Acid	Ester	Saponification
Angostura.	0.961–1.004	75.8–83.5	*7.9–17.3	91.3–98
Bahia ...	0.962–1.031	64.2–81.2	*1.7–6.0	65.9–87.3
Cartagena.	0.958–0.988	49–88.2	*4.5–57.1	92.3–108.5
Maracaibo	—	77.1–92.4	6.3–11	87–98.8
Maturin ...	—	78.5–82.7	9.1–12.8	91.3–92
Pará ...	—	49.4–61.8	8.8–18	64.6–70.7
West African	0.990	58.7	9.6	68.3
Gurjun ...	—	10.8	14.8	25

The figures marked \* are abnormally low, the majority of the samples approaching the higher figures.

### OIL OF NEROLI.

In the last issue of Schimmel & Co.'s report it is stated that "in consequence of an application for a patent by another firm we feel constrained to record, for the protection of our rights of priority, a discovery made by us in 1894" of an artificial oil of neroli—viz., the methyl ether of anthranilic acid, which possesses the characteristic neroli odour. This announcement is probably explained by the appearance of a paper in the May issue of the *Berichte der Deutschen Chemischen Gesellschaft* by Ernest and Hugo Erdmann, the well-known essential-oil chemists, on oil of neroli. They noticed that after distilling off limonene, linalol, linalyl acetate, and geraniol (or rhodinol, as their chemists insist on calling it), the higher boiling fractions under reduced pressure yield an oil which on saponification yields a crystalline acid containing nitrogen. This acid turned out to be anthranilic acid, which has the constitution  $C_6H_4.NH_2.COOH$ . The original compound proved to be the methyl ether of this body, which can be prepared by passing hydrochloric-acid gas through a solution of the acid in pure methyl alcohol. This ester, on account of the basic



character of its molecule, combines with hydrochloric acid to form a well-defined crystalline salt melting at 178°. The pure ester solidifies at low temperature and melts at 24.5°, boils at 127° at 11 mm., and has a sp. gr 1.163 at 26°, and is extremely fluorescent. In regard to the patent rights it may be noted that several Leipzig firms have for some time past been offering an artificial oil of neroli which appears to correspond in the main with the product described. Each of those who have made the discovery appears to have preferred to keep the matter quiet rather than give the details in a patent-specification; but now it will be an easy matter to thoroughly investigate the composition of the various artificial oils.

## Commercial Notes.

### LIQUORICE ROOT.

A considerable increase in the exports of liquorice-root from Batoum took place during 1898, the figures being 9,760 tons, as against 4,423 tons in 1897. The demand from the United States, who take the bulk of the shipments, was steady at fairly firm prices, but the producers continue to complain of the excessive rate of transport which the Trans-Caucasian railway charges for the conveyance of the pressed bales from the root-growing districts to Batoum.

### WHAT WE GET FROM MALAGA.

The exports from Malaga during 1898 included olive oil 30,547,618 kilos., as compared with 10,517,241 kilos. in 1897, and 9,335,354 in 1896; canary-seed 65,438 (111,034, 124,050); saffron 51 (131, 32); cumin seed 11,427 (15,232, 17,042); hard soap 29,425 (32,908, 35,904); ground pimento 26,679 (47,022, 48,562); liquorice-root 120,950 (158,573, 149,935); and aniseed 36,837 (84,623, 102,232). The figures in all instances represent kilos., and those in brackets are for 1897 and 1896 respectively.

### SHEEP-DIP IN CHILI.

There is a good market for sheep-dip in Chili, remarks our Consul at Valparaiso. All kinds are used—fluid, powder, and paste, and at Punta Arenas, in South Chili, where there are no regulations for the prevention of scab, all the well-known brands can be purchased at favourable prices. Six out of the seven principal brands imported into this district are British, and the seventh is manufactured by a Scotch firm at Virginia, U.S. The total value of sheep-dips imported into Valparaiso during 1898 was estimated at from 12,000% to 15,000%. In the Talcahuano district the sale of sheep-dip has never been pushed until quite recently. It is gratifying to note that a Doncaster firm engaged in the sheep-dip business publishes its pamphlets and testimonials in Spanish.

### BUSINESS WITH CARTAGENA (SPAIN).

The principal exports from Cartagena during 1898 included quicksilver 340 kilos. (Great Britain), 207 (France), and 122 (Belgium); liquorice-root 650 (France); sulphur 2,440,000 (Great Britain), other countries *nil*; crude cream of tartar 5,640 (France); essential oils 508 (France); saffron 42 (France), 89 (Algeria); pimento 30,822 (Great Britain), 55,060 (France), 62,730 (Germany), and 208,615 (Algeria); olive oil 9,670 (France), and 1,020 (Philippines). The imports included drugs 220 (France), and 2,963 (Germany); chemical products 1,209 (Great Britain), 5,424 (France), 6,182 (Germany), 42,585 (Belgium); beeswax 13 (France), 1,375 (Germany); medicines 39 (Great Britain), 97 (France), 20 (Germany); paraffin-wax 1,004 (Great Britain); saltpetre 5,437 (Great Britain), 2,520 (France), and 125,320 (Germany). The above figures represent kilos.

### SULPHATE OF COPPER IN FRANCE.

Mr. J. C. Covert, United States Consul at Lyons, has reported to his Government upon the consumption of sulphate of copper in France, apparently because he thinks that the United States should supply it, owing to the fact that it is the largest copper-producing country in the world. Sulphate of copper is required by the vine-growers of France, who, since the introduction of Bordeaux broth (a mixture of the sulphate with slaked lime and water) about a dozen years ago, have used large quantities of it for keeping down black-rot and mildew in vines. In 1895 France imported

24,641 tons of the sulphate, in 1896 34,539 tons, in 1897 30,909 tons, and in 1898 31,468 tons. The Consul also mentions the recent Commission appointed by the Chamber of Deputies to consider the advance in the price of the sulphate, consequent upon the enhanced cost of the metal. The Commission reported adversely against the proposal to reduce the Customs duty, which now yields 90,000*fr.* annually to the revenue.

### MEXICAN DRUG-EXPORTS.

From the official statement of the trade of Mexico during 1898 we extract the following particulars of exports of druggists' produce, the figures representing the values of goods in pesos (1 p. = 4*s.* 2*d.* *nom.*). The values of the same drugs exported in 1896-97 are also given for comparison:—

	1897-98	1896-97
Saffron ... ..	4,440 ...	12,600
Wax ... ..	9,814 ...	5,357
Gum chicle ... ..	592,332 ...	1,529,047
Spanish pepper ... ..	33,743 ...	36,608
Aloes essence [? juice]...	28,127 ...	14,956
Honey ... ..	193,019 ...	72,335
Vanilla ... ..	633,270 ...	997,155
Sarsaparilla ... ..	20,940 ...	31,102

### CRUDE CHEMICALS IN CHILI.

Consul-General Sir T. B. Cusack-Smith no doubt finds it difficult to write a good and accurate report on the trade of Valparaiso, as he remarks that the facilities for getting reliable information and figures are inadequate. As may be imagined, he has little to say about the iodine-industry beyond the statement that "only a small quantity was exported from Pisagua during 1898, this being due to the fact that the shipments are regulated by a combination which exists between all the producers in order to reduce the large stocks already held in Europe." The Consul thinks that there is an opening for profitable investment of capital in the working of native sulphur-deposits which exist in the Andes. These deposits are at present the subject of negotiations with an American syndicate. Borate of lime is also receiving the attention of capitalists, and explorations are being made in the neighbourhood of the port of Taltal.

## The Clove Season.

THE clove-crop in Pemba and Zanzibar this season has been exceptionally prolific, but the cloves ripened much faster than they could be picked, and the consequence is that a great quantity of poor cloves has been gathered. There was an excessive drought towards the end of the season, which resulted in the destruction of many thousands of trees, especially in Pemba, and it is predicted in the *Shamba* that the future crop will be much diminished on this account. That journal states that in November the 1898-99 crop stood at 172,970 frasilas, against 225,029 frasilas at the same time in 1895-96, which was the heaviest record. But the large arrivals of December, January, and February effected a change, and placed this year ahead by 12,089 frasilas, the total to the end of February being, for 1898-99 and 1895-96, 466,923 and 454,834 frasilas respectively. The close of the season will probably see this year beat all previous recent records. The crop in Zanzibar was later than in Pemba by at least a month. Misfortune overtook the trees about that time. Already exhausted by the drought, the scorching, rainless month of December sealed their fate, and the cloves, which in many places were only half ripe at that time, shrivelled up on the trees and fell to the ground, where they were swept up by the natives. These are the Koker cloves of the market, but the *Shamba* people call them *peta* cloves because they *peta* or sift them out from the leaves and rubbish with which they are swept up.

## Coming Events.


Saturday, July 1.

Wholesale Chemists' and Druggists' Cricket Championship.  
Match at West Green—Hewlett's v. Kepler.

Tuesday, July 4.

Röntgen Society, 11 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, at 8 p.m.  
Annual meeting, at which Dr. C. W. Mansell-Moullin will deliver an address.





# IRISH SUPPLEMENT TO THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

THIRD YEAR.

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1899.

No. 31.

## Review of the Month.

THE Lord Chancellor's Companies Bill is still down as "waiting for Committee," and in view of the near approach of the end of the Session it is improbable that it will make further progress for at least six months. The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain are deferring opposition to the Bill until it reaches the Commons, when they will oppose Clause 2 and endeavour to get Clause 3 amended so as to include chemists.

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At the Council meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland the President said something had been accomplished in getting it recognised that the Companies Bill is the proper place to deal with the grievance of company-pharmacy. It now remained to get their case dealt with in like manner to that of the medical profession. The Society's solicitors are to consider the objectionable clauses of the Company's Bill with a view to organising opposition. A full report of the meeting is given on the next page.

\* \* \* \*

The unqualified-dispenser question has been kept alive by Major Rasch. In reply to a question in the House of Commons as to what provisions were made for reporting dispensing accidents, and if any were made who reported them to the Privy Council, he was informed that no provisions existed for reporting such accidents, and that the General Medical Council had appointed a committee to consider the question. On May 31 the G.M.C. appointed a committee to consider the communications regarding unqualified dispensers forwarded to them by the Privy Council.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. J. C. C. Payne (Belfast), the President of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, was present at a meeting of the Executive held in London on June 7. The Conference to be held in Plymouth during the week beginning July 24 promises to be a success, although there appears to be some difficulty in procuring sufficient hotel accommodation owing to the Conference being fixed for a week when other conferences are being held in the same town. Early application for rooms must be made in consequence.

\* \* \* \*

The annual meeting of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association was held last week in London. The report of the

Executive shows that the Association is still going forward, receipts and membership both showing increases. It has been resolved to form a Defence Fund, to be run in connection with the P.A.T.A. The object of the fund is to provide legal assistance to chemists prosecuted for certain offences, and to look after the interests of the subscribers in parliamentary matters. The annual dinner was held last Wednesday night, the new President (Mr. A. Tebbutt) being in the chair. Mr. Glyn-Jones (the Secretary) replied to the toast of the Association, proposed by Mr. Wilson (Harrogate).

\* \* \* \*

Last week the half-yearly volume of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST was completed. Exclusive of the comprehensive index it contained 1,020 pages of literary matter, each page being filled with matter of interest to chemists. There is no other drug-journal in the world that can beat our record, and yet the price is only 10s. a year, which includes THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY in addition to the two half-yearly volumes. There are very few chemists in the United Kingdom who are not already subscribers, that number becoming fewer and fewer as the years roll on.

\* \* \* \*

The following paragraphs appear in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST for July 1:—

I have the honour to inform subscribers to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST that my connection with that journal as Editor, which has extended over thirty years, ceases with this issue. In retiring from the work which has occupied the greater part of my life, I desire to thank the Proprietors of this paper for their generous confidence, my colleagues for invaluable aid, and supporters of the *C. & D.* throughout the world for their friendly appreciation of very imperfect, but certainly sincere, efforts to be of use to the trade.

A. C. WOOTTON.

The Shrubby, Enfield, June 29, 1899.

Yesterday Mr. Wootton, whose letter to our readers appears above this, retired from the editorship of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, in accordance with his decision expressed over two years ago.

He leaves with the regret and esteem of the Proprietors of this journal, and, we believe, of all his associates at 42 Cannon Street.

THE PROPRIETORS.

42 Cannon Street, E.C., July 1.



## Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

THE monthly meeting of the Council was held on June 7, in the Society's house, 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, at 3 P.M. Present: Mr. R. J. Downes (President), Mr. Beggs (Vice-President), Mr. Grindley (Treasurer), Messrs. Bernard, Connor (Newry), Kelly, Michie, Porter, Simpson, Tate (Belfast), and Wells.

### COMPANIES AND PHARMACY.

The minutes having been read,

THE PRESIDENT said: We can claim another feather for our cap. Since our last meeting and issue of our circular to the members of the House of Lords, Lord Dudley has introduced the Companies Act Amendment Bill, including in it the substance of the two Bills of the Lord Chancellor. The process which determined this decision we cannot know, but I can fondly believe that the resolution of this Council at the last meeting, and the circular issued with it, forced the Lord Chancellor to the conclusion that he could not, in his high office, face the responsibility—or shall I say the shame?—of proceeding with the Bills he had brought in. We have also gained by concession of the principle which from the beginning we contended for—that the Companies Act Amendment Bill was the proper place where our grievance was to be satisfied. This the Lord Chancellor and the Committee said was impossible. It remains to be seen whether we will succeed in our other contention—that our case must be dealt with in the same manner and in the same clause as that of the medical profession. Our cases, being alike, in justice must receive like rule, and that we have shifted the Lord Chancellor and Committee so far is, to my mind, hopeful that reason and justice are not yet dead. The clause affecting the business of pharmacy is still ill-considered and crude. Apart from the injustices it would cast on us, it is peculiar in that it makes the Act of 1868 the criterion for offences. This, again, makes me think that there is a desire only to deal with poison-selling and not the pharmacy aspect of the business. The British pharmaceutical chemist in the eye of the law is only a poison-seller; in Ireland, we are compounders of medical prescriptions, and if any such distinction is sought to be made, we will have to look well to it that the Irish pharmacist has a place in the medical profession's clause: this must be fought for if we lose in the druggist interest. Our strong complaint is not met or attempted to be met by the clauses; it is a scandal that persons unqualified and incriminated may open shop, transact the business and use the titles of "pharmaceutical chemist," "chemist and druggist," and "registered druggist" under the Companies Acts—a complaint which the Government admits requires a remedy. The remedy we have indicated has been approved by the leading Borough and Urban Councils in Ireland, and I hope will be endorsed by the County Councils just formed. I see no prospect of efficient help from the Council of the Ph.S.G.B. They, like the G.M.C., appear to think that they cannot extend co-operation to any outside of their own Act. Therefore, while we have always acted for the benefit of the whole body of pharmacists, British and Irish, and of the medical profession, believing in the advantage of co-operation, we are not under any obligation to sacrifice any point we may be able to make for ourselves in consideration of any sympathy we may have with them. It is more than ever our duty to push our own interests independently of every other consideration. I would suggest that these clauses should at once be submitted to our solicitors and counsel for consideration, probably in conjunction with Mr. Campbell, Mr. Healy, and Mr. Redmond, to show how we should meet them in the House of Commons; meantime I would urge our members to use any influence they have with any member of the House of Lords so as to have the matter discussed there. I will ask you to discuss this question when we reach the Law Committee report.

### THE COUNCIL AND THE QUEEN.

THE PRESIDENT said: On the occasion of the celebration of her Majesty's birthday I thought it would be in keeping with the prestige and sentiments of this Council to telegraph our congratulations and good wishes. I did so on your behalf, and we received a special reply.

The REGISTRAR read the telegram, which was as follows:—"The President and Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland desire to convey the expression of their homage and congratulations" (Sent on May 24.)

The Registrar also read the reply received from Sir A. Bigge, as follows:—"The Private Secretary is desired to express the thanks of the Queen for the kind message which you have forwarded to her Majesty."

On the motion of Mr. WELLS, seconded by Mr. GRINDLEY, the telegram and reply were ordered to be inserted on the minutes.

### IRISH PHARMACISTS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

A letter was read from the Government Secretary of British Guiana in reply to one from the Council asking that licentiates of the Irish Society in British Guiana should be exempted from examination there. The reply was that the representations of the Council had come too late to be dealt with in a Bill which had then become law, but that it would be considered if the ordinance should come up for amendment at a later date.

THE PRESIDENT: We saw that the British Society's certificates were recognised in the colony, and wrote requesting to be put on the same footing with them.

### THE PHARMACOPŒIA COMMITTEE.

THE PRESIDENT stated that he had received a communication from the General Medical Council requesting his attendance in London at the Conference of the Pharmacopœia Committee. He had attended this conference, and regarded the position to which he had been appointed as one of much honour and of great responsibility. As their representative he was received with all the courtesy they could desire. The discussion, which lasted more than three hours, was most interesting, and it was a pleasure to notice the desire to have a perfect book for the medical man and the pharmacist, and for them rather than for the public analyst. The position they had sought of discussing questions with the Pharmacopœia Committee of the General Medical Council was not conceded. The work of the Conference was to be submitted to that committee, which would have the power to set it aside, though he by no means suggested that this was likely to happen. He was not, however, disposed to recommend at the present time the raising of questions which would not be of importance for at least five years. The position now occupied by them would, he thought, stimulate pharmaceutical studies, give an insight into the methods of compiling and amending the Pharmacopœia, and, not least, would convince each one how small was his individual experience, scientific and practical. As soon as he received certain official communications he should call the Society's committee together. In the meantime he was prepared to distribute suggestions to any members who desired to have them, and he hoped their members would prove by their work that their training for the licence had fitted them for this as well as for their other obligations.

### COMPANIES AND PHARMACY.

Letters were received from the Royal College of Physicians (Ireland), the General Medical Council, and the British Medical Association, acknowledging the receipt of copies of the resolution passed by the Council of the Society on May 3 relative to the Companies (Medical Profession) Bill. The letter from the College of Physicians stated that they did not consider the occasion a suitable one to legislate in the direction indicated.

THE PRESIDENT: The General Medical Council also consider that it would not be suitable to include us in the Bill. Considering that the medical profession are indebted to us for calling their attention to the position in which they stood with regard to limited companies, I consider their reply and treatment of us very ungenerous. It would not interfere in the least with their position and dignity if they used their influence on our behalf and gave us their sympathy even without themselves going to the Lord Chancellor and proposing that we should be put into the Bill. I think the attitude of the College of Physicians in Dublin, and of the General Medical Council in London, in the matter is not such as to promote that feeling of sympathy and good will between us which we have been endeavouring to cultivate.



Mr. BERNARD remarked that veterinary surgeons were not included in the Bill, and asked if it would be worth while to bring the matter under the notice of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons?

The PRESIDENT: When we first raised the question we sent to every examining body.

Mr. WELLS: I think you ought to send to them again.

Mr. BERNARD: We should get our licentiates to stir up their members of Parliament all over the whole country.

Communications were received from the Sligo Board of Guardians and the Castlecorner Rural District Council intimating that they had unanimously adopted the resolution of the Council against company pharmacy.

#### "DRAPER, GROCER, AND PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST."

The County Inspector of the R.I.C. at Omagh wrote stating that Mr. R. H. Anderson, chemist and druggist, of Six Mile Cross, had been fined 5*l.* for using the title of "pharmaceutical chemist" without being lawfully entitled to do so. The defendant, the letter stated, had sent a memorial to the Lord-Lieutenant praying for an abatement of the fine.

The REGISTRAR read a copy of the memorial which had been received from the Castle, with a request that the Council would favour the Lord-Lieutenant with their observations thereon. A sergeant of constabulary called at the defendant's shop and made a purchase, and the bill which he received was headed "draper, grocer, and pharmaceutical chemist." The memorialist stated that some years ago he was registered as a chemist and druggist, and a printer suggested that he should put into his billheads the word "pharmaceutical," which he did, not knowing the meaning of it. He sold ordinary drugs up to October last, and then ceased to sell drugs of any description, and he ordered his shop-assistants to strike out the words "pharmaceutical chemist and druggist" from his billheads, but they did not do so. The Justices held that a technical breach of the law had been committed, and all except the Resident Magistrate (Mr. Dunsterville) joined in a recommendation that the fine should be reduced to 10*s.*

Mr. BERNARD: He notifies the reduction that he wants. That is going a step further than anyone else.

Mr. WELLS: He knew very well what he was doing. He got his caution as well as other people.

The letter and memorial were referred to the Law Committee.

This closed the public business.

## Pharmacy Act Case.

### APOTHECARIES' APPRENTICES.

ON June 3, in the Queen's Bench Division of the Irish High Court, before Justices O'Brien and Boyd, an application was made on behalf of Mr. William Miller, of Coleraine and London, for a conditional order for a mandamus to issue directed to the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland to compel that body to admit him to their Licence examination. Section 22 of the Pharmacy Act of 1875 provides that candidate chemists must be examined in chemistry, botany, and certain other subjects before being admitted as pharmaceutical chemists. The Society, in pursuance of certain statutory powers, made a regulation that all such candidates before being admitted to the examination should serve an apprenticeship of four years at least with a pharmaceutical chemist, an apothecary keeping open shop, or a firm of legally-qualified pharmaceutical chemists. Accordingly Mr. Miller entered into an apprenticeship of five years with Dr. Charles Forsythe, of Coleraine, in 1891, and remained with him till 1896. Dr. Forsythe is a licentiate of the Apothecaries' Hall, Dublin, in addition to being an M.D. of the Queen's University and a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, and he resides and practises in Coleraine. The Pharmaceutical Society refused to accept the apprenticeship of Mr. Miller which had been served with Dr. Forsythe, and refused to admit him to the examination on various grounds, one of them being that although Dr. Forsythe was a licentiate of Apothecaries' Hall, he was not one within the meaning of the old Apothecaries' Hall Act of 1791.

The Court granted a conditional order for a mandamus.

## Legal Cases.

### Aërated-water Bottle Cases.

Recently, in the Belfast Police Courts, Mr. Patrick J. McCullough, mineral-water manufacturer, Great Patrick Street, was summoned for selling aërated waters to which the name of W. J. Briggs & Co. was improperly applied. He was also charged with having in his possession a quantity of mineral waters to which a false trade-description was applied. The first case was dismissed, and a fine of 10*s.* and 10*s.* costs was imposed in the second case.

At the Athlone Petty Sessions on June 17, twenty-two summonses were entered against Messrs. Keely & Brennan, mineral-water manufacturers, of that town, at the instance of the Mineral-water Manufacturers' Association, Dublin, the assenting members to the prosecution being Messrs. Hovenden & Orr, chemists, Bewley & Draper, wholesale druggists, Hamilton, Long & Co., State apothecaries, and others. The charge was that the defendants used bottles belonging to the members of the Association by bottling their own minerals in them, and sending them out to the public with a false trade description, in contravention of the Merchandise-marks Act of 1887. The defendants elected to be tried summarily. Evidence was given by Mr. W. J. Knight, secretary of the Mineral-water Manufacturers' Society, that all the manufacturers in Dublin belonged to the prosecuting Association. The Dublin houses saved 2*s.* a gross by direct exchanges, which the provincial houses had to pay. The defence was a plea that the conditions of exchanging bottles were harassing to the local trade, as retailers would not deal with the small manufacturers if they had the trouble of sorting the bottles. The Bench considered there had been merely a technical breach of the law, and by consent it was agreed to take a verdict for the plaintiffs in five cases at 5*s.* each and 1*l.* costs.

### A Question of Liability.

At the Londonderry Quarter Sessions, an action was brought by Messrs. Noble & McLelland against the Ulster Chemists (Limited) to recover 50*l.*, two years' rent up to November 1 last of premises in Lower Clarendon Street and the Quay, under an agreement dated September 30, 1896, between the plaintiffs and Messrs. Galbraith & Co., pharmacists. Mr. Charles McLelland proved the agreement and the rent due, and stated that the place was in the possession of Messrs. Galbraith & Co. up to 1897, when it was sold to the defendant company. The defence was that the rent was due by the previous tenants, and that the Ulster Chemists' Company was not liable. Mr. Samuel Gibson, registered druggist, managing director of the Ulster Chemists' Company, said his company bought the place in February, 1898, but they had taken over the premises from the previous November. They got an assignment of the retail premises, but they did not take over the debts or liabilities of the previous tenant. Plaintiffs' counsel handed witness an account in which there were items for Galbraith & Co. and the present defendants, which witness said that their bookkeeper could explain. Plaintiffs' counsel said his clients were entitled to a decree, as it was the defendants' duty to see that the rent was paid before taking over possession of the premises. The Recorder gave a decree for one year's rent (25*l.*), with costs.

### Wholesalers' Liability.

At the Londonderry Quarter Sessions recently, Messrs. Maxwell, Greer & Co., wholesale chemists and druggists, Derry, were sued by Mr. J. McElwre to recover damages sustained by him by reason of defendant's selling him a barrel of adulterated linseed oil for pure oil. The case had been heard at the previous sitting of the Court, but was adjourned pending an analysis of the oil. An analysis handed in by Professor Leebody stated that the samples of oil submitted to him were adulterated with 25 per cent of mineral oil. His Honour said the adulteration was not the fault of the defendants, as it was proved that they had bought the oil from a Liverpool firm as pure linseed, and sold it to the plaintiff as such. Plaintiff's counsel said the defendants could sue the firm from whom the oil was bought for damages. The Registrar assessed the damages at 30*l.*, together with 5*l.* witnesses' expenses.



## News of the Month.

### Personal Paragraphs.

Mr. R. Barklie, chemist, Belfast, has been appointed analyst to the Lisburn Board of Guardians. There were five candidates for the post.

Mr. Robert J. Montgomery, L.A.H., and Mr. Edwin Lapper, F.I.C., have been appointed examiners in chemistry and physics to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Samuel Greer, chemist's assistant, Spencer Street, Belfast, is also in the Royal Hospital, suffering from burns on his face and hands caused by the explosion of chemicals.

Mr. D. MacCann, a druggist's assistant, North Street, Belfast, is an inmate of the Royal Hospital with a fractured skull, caused by falling off his bicycle at Helen's Bay.

Mr. Patrick Kelly, M.P.S.I., lectured recently at Harcourt Street, Dublin, on the "Development of Plant-life from Seed to Fruit." The lecture was illustrated by lime-light views.

Mr. Henry Francis Conyngham, physician and surgeon, son of Mr. Henry Conyngham, pharmaceutical chemist, of Dublin, has been appointed a Medical Cadet to the North Borneo Company.

Mr. J. Armstedt Ray, jun., Dublin, has been appointed analyst for drugs and medicines to the Armagh and the Limavady Unions. Each appointment is worth about 15l. a year. Mr. Ray has also been appointed analyst to the Youghal Union, at a salary of 10l.

Professor Enerson Reynolds lectured recently at Trinity College, Dublin, on "Discoveries by the Electrical Furnace," in the course of which he said the development in Ireland of a number of new industries brought about by chemical research was only a question of time and patience.

Mr. J. E. O'Neill, M.C.C., R.D.C., Maghera, has been unanimously selected by the Londonderry County Council as a member of the Finance Committee, and also as a governor of the District Lunatic Asylum. Mr. O'Neill is principal of the firm of O'Neill & Co., wholesale druggists and general merchants, Maghera.

Sir Henry Oochrane, D.L., managing director of the firm of Thacker & Hoffe (Limited), wholesale chemists and druggists, Dublin, was recently elected President of the United Kingdom Commercial Travellers' Association. Sir Henry, in accepting office, said he had personal experience as an "ambassador of commerce," having been a bagman in his early days. He knew of no occupation which tried a man more, or in which he required more patience, tact, perseverance, and the faculty of never knowing when he was defeated than that of a commercial traveller.

### Carbolic Acid in Poison-bottles.

At an inquest held at Belfast, on June 1, relative to the death of a woman named Reid from carbolic-acid poisoning, evidence was given to the effect that deceased had taken the carbolic acid in mistake for medicine. The jury, in returning a verdict of death from misadventure, desired the Coroner to express to the Home Secretary their opinion that poisons should be dispensed in specially-coloured and specially-ribbed glass bottles. They considered that chemists and druggists should be compelled to explain to purchasers the deadly nature of poisons, and to point out to them the colour and shape of the bottle.

### Will Retire for a Consideration.

The Limerick County Council want to dispense with the services of Sir Charles Cameron, who has held the position of analyst to the Council for the past twenty-five years, in favour of a local man. Sir Charles has taken legal advice in the matter, and informs the Council that as dismissal is equivalent to abolition of office he is willing to retire for the consideration of 500l., but not otherwise.

### Mysterious Explosion.

On June 17 an alarming explosion took place at a salt-mine in Carrickfergus. A loud noise resembling thunder

was followed by a vast upheaval of earth to the height of fully 80 feet in the air. It is believed the explosion was caused by the ignition of an accumulation of gas. No one was injured.

### Royal College of Science.

The report of the committee appointed to inquire into the buildings and site of the Royal College of Science for Ireland, Dublin, has just been issued. It is recommended that the new building be erected alongside the National Gallery in Kildare Street, running parallel to Merion Square, and that the existing College be removed from its position on Stephen's Green to the proposed new site.

### Ireland the Dumping-ground.

Mr. William Field, M.P., has brought before the Dublin Port and Docks Board the question of revising the harbour-dues on imports generally. He contends that it is ridiculous to levy a charge on imports of unmanufactured articles and to let manufactured goods in free. It is, he adds, free trade gone mad, and between preferential rates and the Chamber of Commerce, Ireland is made a dumping-ground for the manufactures of every other country in the world.

### Fire.

At Dublin, on June 4, fire broke out in the apothecary's department of Mercer's Hospital. The outbreak originated in one of the medicine-cupboards through the spontaneous combustion of some of the chemicals. The flames were soon extinguished, and the damage done was inconsiderable.

### Singular Accident.

At Tralee recently an accident occurred to Mr. Peter Murray, a veterinary chemist, who, while driving to Brosna, raised the cover of a case of medicines and chemicals, and owing to a jolting of the car received some corrosive liquid in his face out of an uncorked bottle. His eyes are seriously injured.

### Under the Hammer.

On June 14 the premises and effects of the late Dr. Frazer, L.P.S.I., Harcourt Street, Dublin, were disposed of by public auction. The sale attracted much attention, as the deceased possessed perhaps one of the finest private collections of chemical curios and *objets d'art* in the United Kingdom.

### Business Changes.

Mr. John E. Lewis, L.P.S.I., Skibbereen, has opened a pharmacy in Main Street in that town.

Mr. J. B. Bolger, L.P.S.I., late of Graham's Medical Hall, Dublin, has opened a pharmacy at Maryborough.

Messrs. McCarthy & Son, chemists and druggists, Arran Quay, Dublin, are rebuilding their extensive premises. When finished the place will be one of the finest of its kind in the city.

Messrs. Hugh Moore & Co. (Limited), wholesale druggists Dublin, are about to acquire new premises at Ringsend for the storage of oils in bulk. They hope to get ground at the north side of the Alexandra Basin.

Messrs. Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson (Limited), Dublin, are about to open an additional branch of their concern in Henry Street, North City, and are opening a branch at Blackrock, a neighbouring seaside resort.

### The Agreement must Stand.

In connection with the recent bankruptcy of Mr. Charles H. Roche, proprietor of the pharmacy, Mallow, an action to compel the bankrupt to adhere to an agreement regarding the sale of his premises in Grand Parade, Cork, has been brought against the debtor and the assignee. It appeared that the premises were sold for 1,000l. to a religious order, and it was sought to null the transaction on the ground that the bankrupt was not at the time in the full possession of his faculties, and did not understand the nature of the contract. After hearing evidence the Master of the Rolls made a decree for specific performance, stating there was no evidence to show that the bankrupt was incapable of transacting business, and that the sum of 1,000l. was a fair price to pay for the premises.



# Pears' Soap

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## Poor-law Items.

The North Dublin Union Council have given notice to rescind the resolution they recently passed appointing Sir Charles Cameron their analyst at a salary of 25*l.* a year. It is alleged that the appointments was not quite regular.

The Fermoy Poor-law Guardians object to have their drugs and medicines analysed piecemeal, and suggest to the Local Government Board the propriety of having their medicines supplied in bulk in future. In this case one analysis would be sufficient.

At a meeting recently of the Kilrush Board of Guardians some surprise was occasioned by the statement that 33*s.* had been expended for sticky fly-papers for the workhouse, and that 10*d.* a box had been paid for Keating's insect-powder which could be bought for 6*d.* The Guardians have resolved that in future no goods be ordered except on the requisition of the entire Board.

The Belfast Guardians discussed recently the list of medicines to be included in the new tenders. Dr. McDonnell objected to the inclusion in the list of cod-liver oil and malt extract, a substitute for which could be easily prepared. It was explained that many patients, particularly consumptives, could not take cod-liver oil, hence the necessity for the addition of malt extract; but the articles objected to were eventually deleted, and the list was approved of.

The question of the analysis of drugs and medicines is exercising the minds of not a few Irish Boards of Guardians. At Armagh the want of an analyst is much complained of. In Fermoy the Guardians wish to have the drugs tested in bulk to save expense. Mr. J. A. Ray, M.P.S.I., Dublin, has offered to act as analyst at 20*l.* a year, but his offer has not been accepted. The Limerick County Council have got rid of Sir Charles Cameron, and have agreed to appoint a local man to the vacancy; and the South Dublin Guardians have said, "No, thanks," to a Trinity College analyst who has offered to examine their drugs for a consideration. They get this duty done for nothing at present.

A notice has been received by the Belfast Guardians from the Local Government Board, disallowing the sum of 420*l.* in respect of the recoupment of medicines, and a committee was formed to inquire into the matter. The committee report that the large increase of cost has been caused by the medical officers ordering medicine and medical appliances not on the list authorised by the L.G.B., and they recommend the Guardians to request the medical officers to adhere strictly to the regulations, failing which the Guardians will hold the visiting medical officers personally responsible, and they will be required to assign sufficient reasons in every case in which such extra medicines are ordered.

At a meeting on June 10 of the Guardians of the Mullingar Union a letter from the Local Government Board with reference to the acceptance of a tender for medicines from Mrs. English, chemist, Mullingar, was read, in which it was pointed out that the tender, though not the lowest, was accepted, and pointing out that this action might render it necessary to withhold portion of the recoupment in respect of the cost of medicines from the local taxation account. Mr. O'Connor (a Guardian) said the answer they should give to the Local Government Board was that the contract was given to a large ratepayer, and that for the matter of a small amount they were prepared to keep the money at home. The following resolution was, however, passed:—

That the tender for medicine by Mrs. English be cancelled and the lowest tender be accepted.

The Athy Board of Guardians have received from the solicitors of Messrs. Clarke & Co. (Limited), chemists and druggists, Belfast, an application for payment of the sum of 13*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, the balance due for goods supplied to the Union. The amount is made up of deductions from the periodical payments, which Messrs. Clarke state are entirely without warrant. To avoid litigation the Guardians are a ked to pay the account forthwith. The Chairman thought the application ill-timed, and saw no reason for giving in to it. When deductions were properly made they were not liable to Messrs. Clarke, who were bound by their contract

to supply at wholesale prices all medicines outside the contract. The medicines on which the deductions were made were outside those contracted for. It was decided to refuse payment and await developments.

At a meeting of the Kilmallock Board of Guardians a letter was received from Mr. Hinchy, contractor for medicines, pointing out with reference to previous correspondence that the question at issue is not the pricing of goods contracted for, but for "extras." There were altogether 420 items contracted for, out of which Dr. McNamara took exception to two. If the doctor knew by whom the lint was manufactured he would probably consider seriously before making the statement that he could get lint of the same quality at 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb. as that contracted for at 2*s.* 8*d.* per lb. The doctor's remarks in reference to linseed-meal quoted it by the ton. The contract was 3*d.* per lb. Mr. Hinchy added that he was willing to submit the whole matter to the Local Government Board, and so saddle the right horse. He asserted that the medical officer had threatened to ruin the contractor. Dr. McNamara said he did no such thing. A doctor had no better means of knowing the prices of medicines than any other person. The letter was marked read, and Mr. Hinchy was requested to send invoices with the supplies of drugs in future.

The Local Government Board have enclosed for the remarks of the Mountmellick Poor-law Guardians a letter forwarded to the Board by Mr. W. H. Cobbe, one of the Guardians, with reference to the medicine-contract. Mr. Cobbe says that four tenders were received offering discount from 20 to 43 per cent. off the regulation price-list; one of the tenders at 25 per cent. off was from the former contractor, against whom no fault was to be found. Another tender, also at 25-per-cent. reduction, was accepted. He wants to know why the lowest tender should not be accepted. It was from a contractor who in former years gave satisfaction, and the difference which the ratepayers had to pay was the very considerable sum of 18 per cent.; and failing the acceptance of the lowest tender, why should the Guardians be allowed to depart from the usual practice—when there were two contractors tendering at the same price—of giving the contract to the contractor for the previous year? The Chairman said that three tenders were put to the vote and one was selected. That was all the answer they could make. There was no use for the Guardians at all if they could not take what tender they pleased. He admitted that no fault was to be found with the previous contractors (Messrs. Leslie & Co., of Dublin), who had given satisfaction generally.

## Books for Chemists.

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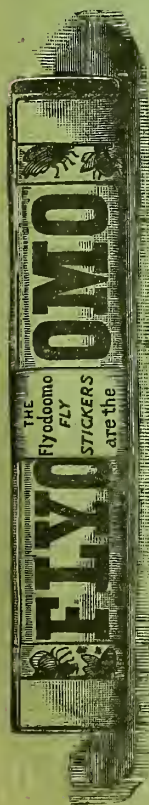
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